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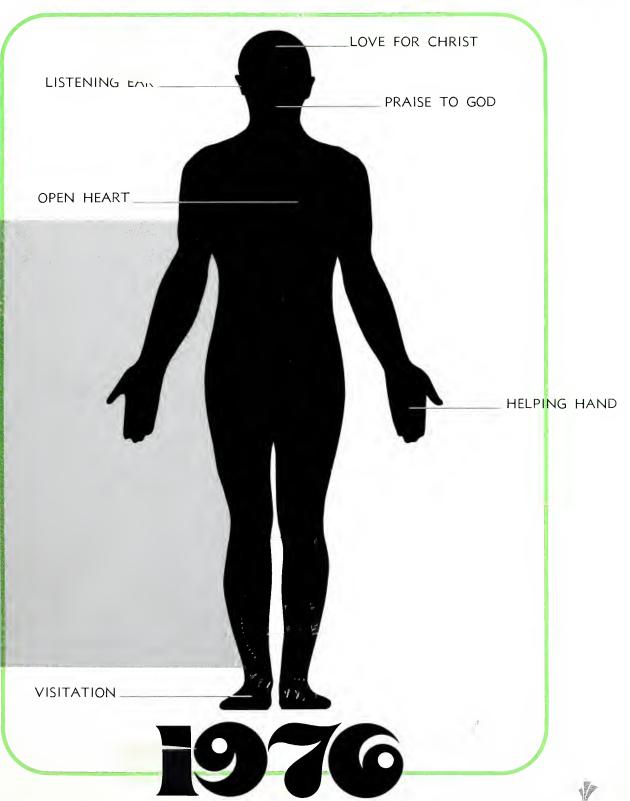


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PENTECOSTAL RISEARCH CENTER





Anatomy of a Christian Youth





### LIBERATED BUT OBLIGATED

### BY BETTY SPENCE

n July 8, 1776, the bell ringer elimbed the steps to the belfry of Philadelphia's statehouse. Unaware of his part in the most important day in America's history, he rang the bell that became its symbol

of liberty.

Already the bell bore the inscription from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10). Now the new sounds of freedom were reverberating indeed throughout all the land. But in the days that followed, the refrains of liberty stirred different responses in the hearts of different Americans. The sweet cadence of independence moved George Washington to continued service. Young Captain Nathan Hale regretted he had only one life to give for his country. Thousands of others were stirred to give the last full measure of their devotion.

Having just broken away from one government, the new nation was hesitant to set up another. But without rules and regulations, the fledgling nation knew they would have difficulty. In 1787, when it became apparent to the Founding Fathers that there could be *no* liberty without observance of law, the Constitution was framed. Designed to secure the blessings of liberty, the Constitution would nonetheless *bind* those who sought to do as they liked.

Much of what is true here is true in the realm of Christian liberty for youth. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32). Because Adam gambled away his freedom in the Garden of Eden we are born in bondage to sin. The proclamation of liberty that sets the sinner free was signed at Calvary with the blood of Jesus. In Him youth find true freedom. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Christian freedom, however, is not without its restraints. Often young people put off following Jesus because they feel that there are too many things to give up, that there are too many things they cannot do and be a Christian. The reason for this may be, in fact, that they have heard older people put more emphasis on the negative side of the gospel rather than on the positive. While we cannot completely "eliminate the negative," we can "accentuate the positive."

If the Christian young person remains the freeman whom the truth makes free, he must therefore continue in the Word of God. Soon after God delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage, He gave them the Ten Commandments. Whenever they failed to keep these, they lost their freedom once again and were taken into captivity. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus laid down some rules which, if followed, will guard the Christian's liberty.

Among the liberties provided through the Spirit of Christ, none is greater than the freedom to serve. An important watchword of Christian liberty is found in 1 Peter 2:16: "As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

"As free, and not using your liberty. . . ."

Free, yet a servant! What a seeming contradiction! Freedom, and yet servitude.

On the birthday of Israel's freedom, the Hebrews had all come out of Egypt as free men. But in time some did not do as well as others. Some could not handle their freedom. They had grown used to being told what to do and how to do. Now they had the responsibilities of making their own living and planning and managing their own affairs.

Sometimes young people suddenly gain their freedom. They have their own cars, go away to college, or get their own apartments. However, they soon learn, as did the Hebrews, that freedom has its price. Wendell Phillips touched upon this when he said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

In time there were Jews who actually sold themselves, or were sold by their families as slaves, to pay debts. But God wanted to remind the Hebrews that they too were once slaves in Egypt. So He commanded that a servant be released after seven years. At this time the Hebrew servant could either go out free, or remain in servitude by choice. "And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master . . . I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever" (Exodus 21:5, 6).

A teenager's T-shirt eaught my attention recently. On the front of the shirt was a large bird with outstretched wings. Superimposed on this were these words:

R 14723P mi

If you love something set it free.

If it comes back, it is yours.

If it doesn't, it never was.

When Jesus saves us He gives us the liberty either to choose Him only as Savior, or to accept Him as Savior and Lord.

"Savior, I know Thou hast allowed me absolute liberty, to serve Thee, or to go my own way. I would serve Thee forever, for I love my Master. I will not go out free. Mark my ear, Lord, that it might respond only to Thy voice." So wrote Jim Elliot at age 20 when he was a student at Wheaton College. The story of how Jim was martyred in 1956 by Auca Indians is told in *Shadow of the Almighty*, by Elisabeth Elliot, Jim's wife. Another one of Jim's notes from his college journal reflects how this remarkable young missionary felt about freedom and servitude. "He is no fool," said Jim, "who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Free, yet a servant!

Moses was such a servant, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25).

The Psalmist David declares in Psalm 143:12, "I

am thy servant."

The Apostle Paul was "free born" (Acts 22:28),

yet he chose to be the servant of God.

Just as there are thousands who have pledged their allegiance to their country; likewise, great numbers of Christian youth have pledged their allegiance to Christ.

I love my Master;
I don't want to go free.
I want to serve my Lord
eternally.

I was bought with a price; It was paid by the Christ. I love my Master; I don't want to go free.

-Betty Spence

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### BY JAMES C. HEFLEY

October 9, 1635, Newtown, Massachusetts

"Roger Williams must go. His opinions are too dangerous to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." So decreed the Bay Colony's General Court (legislature) in ending Williams' trial in Newtown for propagating "new and dangerous opinions" from his pulpit in Salem.

Sentence of banishment was pronounced by Governor John Haynes. All of the honorable members of the court except one concurred. His identity was not disclosed.

Governor Haynes took note of Williams' severe illness and gave him until spring to depart, provided he did not go about to draw others to his opinions.

The decree was issued after minister Thomas Hooker failed to reduce the accused of any of his errors. Hooker, minister at Newtown, was labeled "soft liner" in contrast to the eminent John Cotton, teacher of the Boston church, who played the major role in the prosecution. In a private conversation Cotton called Williams "a haberdasher of small questions against the Power [of the state]."

However, after the court adjourned, Cotton told Williams that he had had no hand in the sentence. Several ministers and magistrates disputed this and tearfully informed Cotton that they would never have voted for banishment had Cotton not persuaded them it was the thing to do.

The "new and dangerous opinions" which Williams was convicted of propagating to his congregation at Salem and to other freemen included the following:

1. That land patents of the King, awarding lands to English settlers, are illegal because the natives (Indians) are the true owners. That English subjects possessing such land ought to repent and make suitable restitution to the natives driven from the lands.

2. That it is unlawful to call upon an unregenerate person to swear an oath or pray to God. (Williams' definition of *unregenerate* includes "those professing Christians who refuse to renounce their connections with the Church of England.")

3. That it is unlawful to hear any of the ministers of the Parish assemblies in England.

4. That the civil magistrate's power extends only to the bodies, and goods, and outward state of men.

Williams freely admitted that he held all these opinions, had proclaimed them, and intended to continue doing so as long as God gives me breath.

The fourth opinion was considered most dangerous to the state of Christian society in Massachusetts. Williams specifically declared that civil government has no power to enforce the first Table of the Law, the first four commandments, which deal with man's relationship to God. Some members of the court speculated that if this were followed in Massachusetts, the state could have nothing to do with religion, and the foundation of commonwealth government would be false. A member of the Court, who asked not to be named, stated bluntly, "We must get him out of Massachusetts. He already has the entire colony in an uproar."

Governor Haynes, in pronouncing sentence, presented scriptural authority for the severe punishment: "Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

Court members, saddened by the severity of the sentence, felt that Williams could have had a great future in Massachusetts if he had only been willing to compromise. They noted that the court remained adjourned from September 3 to October 6, a period long enough for the Separatist from Salem to come to his senses. However, a close friend of the convicted minister warned that Williams was a man who couldn't be moved by ten thousand oxen if he thought he was right.

In a noontime interview, only minutes after the eourt's authority fell, Williams admitted having had a stubborn streak since he was a child of eight. "I suffered at home, work, and school for my dissenting views," he said.

Williams, thirty-two, was younger than most Massachusetts ministers. The son of a London shopkeeper, he was the only important Puritan personage in America who did not grow up on a farm or in a small town. His urban orientation helps explain his fast-paced, fierce manner of speech.

When only a lad he became interested in legal matters and attended the Court of the Star Chamber in Westminster Hall. Sir Edward Coke, destined to become the greatest legal authority in England during the period, noticed him taking notes and became his patron. Sir Edward, who afterward referred to Williams as "my son," secured the youth an appointment to Charterhouse School where his excellent grades qualified him for admittance to Cambridge. After completing his undergraduate course, he stated his intentions to become a clergyman. He said that, as a child, "the Father of mercies had touched his soul with a love for the . . . Holy Scriptures."

While engaged in graduate study, he was disturbed by Archbishop Laud's suppression of nonconformity. After King Charles decreed "that all further curious search [into church doctrine] be laid aside," he left sehool. He had then completed all requirements for his master's degree, except for the formal vows to the rule of episcopacy. From this time on he was counted a high level strategist in the Puritan underground.

While moving toward Separatism, Williams fell in love with an heiress, even though the girl's aunt had warned him against seeking marriage above his class. The aunt, who was also the girl's guardian, refused his plea of marriage. That same year, 1629, he was trothed to Mary Bernard, an uneducated maid who could not write her name. The following year the new-lyweds sailed for Boston.

Williams was welcomed at first in Massachusetts as a godly minister. He and his young wife took lodging with John Wilson, pastor of the Boston ehurch. Because Wilson wanted to return to England for his wife, the Boston church asked Williams to become their pastor. Williams shocked the church by declining their call on grounds that they had not yet completely separated themselves from the "corruptions"

of the Church of England.

A few weeks later the more liberal Salem congregation invited him to become their pastor and he accepted. But on the day he was to begin his ministry there, the General Court of the colony violated congregational independence and interfered.

Williams then departed to Plymouth where he served as assistant to minister Ralph Smith and earned his living by farming and trading with the Indians. While at Plymouth he learned an Indian language and expressed the hope of becoming a missionary to the red men. He also became an admirer of the Pilgrim model of government.

In September, 1634, the church in Salem again invited him to become their pastor. This time the Court did not interfere. At Salem he won many adherents to his view that civil and religious authority should be separated, and again drew the ire of the Commonwealth General Court. The Court brought him to trial and decreed that he must leave the colony.

Shortly before press time a runner arrived from Salem to report that the Salem church has "openly disclaimed their errors" of their former pastor and has written a "humble submission to the Court magistrates, acknowledging their faults."

When confronted with this, the ailing Williams merely shrugged and said, "I believe they lacked boldness, but I understand why they have so acted. Had they not rejected my teaching, the Court would have refused their petition for additional land."

Had he softened any of his own views during the trial? "No," he snorted in a surprising burst of strength. "Never! Never! Let them drive me into the wilderness. I must obey God rather than man."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Friends and followers rallied around to hear the sickly radical preach. This was too much for the magistrates who sent a delegation to bring him to Boston for immediate dispatch into exile on a ship standing anchor in the harbor. Williams escaped before they arrived and plunged into the wilderness where friendly Indians saved him from certain death. The following year he purchased from Indians a plot of ground at the mouth of the Mohassuck River and founded the town of Providence and the first Baptist church in America. Subsequently other communities joined Providence in forming the democratic government of Rhode Island. Here, for the first time on either side of the Atlantic, citizens of all faiths and none enjoyed complete freedom of conscience, complete separation of church and state, and genuine political democracy. In this respect, Roger Williams can rightfully be called the father of American democracy.'

Mr. Hefley is a free-lance writer, teamed with his wife Marti. They live in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.



### RESULUTIONS

BY THOMAS BATTS

raditionally, it is that time of year onee again to make resolutions for the ensuing year. What are your resolutions for next year? To be a better neighbor, to be a better student, to be more punctual in business matters, to finally go on that weight-losing program that you have put off for so long, to intend to do your bit for ecology or for the staggering economy?

Making resolutions is a good tradition, but too often they are forgotten by the end of January. Psychologically, negative thinking tends to prevail. The intentions are good, but it is easy to develop a rather bland attitude, especially after a few resolutions have been broken.

What does it mean to make resolutions? The word *resolve* means "to determine, to analyze, to decide." Look at these three synonyms with eareful serutiny:

Determine. Anything worth having or attaining requires a determined effort. Sometimes one appreciates those things which he strives for more than those which he acquires with ease. The same principle holds true in making resolutions. If one is going to make a resolution and keep it, he must have a dogged determination.

Analyze. Sineere and honest self-appraisal is needed in our time. It is easy to look at someone else and see their needs or faults, but there is an urgent need for introspection. The point is well illustrated in the following bit of humor: As two analytical psychiatrists were walking together, one

said to the other, "You are alright. How am I?" Decide. Making a decision requires action, intestinal fortitude, and a made-up mind—total commitment.

Although man's psychologieal makeup entails the virtues of determination, analysis, and decision, he still is impotent when it eomes to being a perfectly noble character. He has a susceptibility to forgetfulness and weakness. It is conveniently easy to forget a promise made to oneself when the situation demands the contrary. To weaken in the face of adversity is not uncommon. To do better or to be better requires more than a mere philosophical look at life.

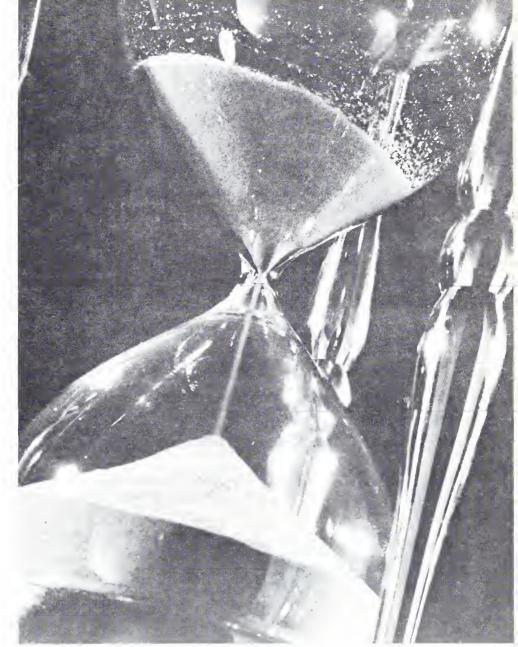
Man is more than a ereature with physiological functions and psychological hang-ups. He also has a spiritual side. The Bible asks: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?' (Psalm 8:4). The Bible teaches that man is "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God. It is important that each individual consider his Maker —God—and resolve to seek Him, to serve Him, and to love Him. Make your resolutions, but make them with spiritual matters in mind.

Consider the Patriarch Jaeob: "And Jaeob vowed a vow" (Genesis 28:20). Jacob's vow at Bethel was not made in a doubtful spirit or with an ulterior motive in mind; rather, it was made with believing antieipation. It was a faith resolution.

Jaeob, having expressed eomplete eonfidence in God, experienced a distinct advance in his spiritual life. The hope of blessing became the covenant of engagement, service, worship, and sacrifice. The highest form of religious life is that which rests on "the solemn vow of dedication at Bethel."

The greatest need facing Christians in the new year is to make a complete commitment to the Savior with the attitude exemplified in the life of the Apostle Paul: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). In resolving to seek God and to do His will, consider every aspect of your life.

Read earefully what Paul said to the Corinthians: "But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoiee, as though they rejoieed not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away" (1 Corinthians 7:29-31). In this text Paul speaks of being independent of worldly relations. The human side of man desires carnal relationships. But they are mere transitory matters—temporal things. The Christian should not feel too comfortable in this



Religious News Service Photo

world. Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:16). Paul said, "We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:18). Earthly matters must not hold top priority; Christ and His eommandments must have first place.

Make your resolutions, not as a means to a selfish end, nor merely to secure help in adverse times, nor out of a fear motivation for the purpose of absolution (remitting of sins). Instead, make them because you desire to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him—and because He loves you!

The inevitable result will be, as Paul the Apostle said, "Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). The end before us is the "father's house in peace" (Genesis 28:21).

hen I think of the many new Christians and the great number of young people who have just recently accepted Christ as their personal Savior, I want to do something to help them. I am a young person, age 23, and I have not always lived my Christian life the way I know God wants me to. Just recently I have been renewed by the mighty power of God's wondrous Holy Spirit. I want to help other young Christians to avoid some of the pitfalls I have experienced.

## LIGHTING THE PATHWAY FOR THE NEW CONVERT

BY LEON J. McALLISTER

I would like to say to young Christians: "Keep your eyes on Jesus." I have wished so many times just recently that someone had sat me down and told me those five words when I first gave my heart to Christ. Think about Peter walking on the water. He was going along just fine. Then Peter began to look around at the raging water about him. Peter took his eyes off Jesus and as a result began to sink into the water. Realizing what had happened, Peter cried out unto the Lord, and the Lord reached down to him and lifted him up. Still, the incident doesn't end here; Jesus chastised Peter by saying, "O thou of lit-

tle faith" (Matthew 14:31).

Let me give you another warning here: "Beware of the devil." The chief goal of the devil in dealing with new converts is to get them to take their eyes off Jesus. He would much rather see you watching your neighbor or friend, or finding fault with other Christians. The devil wants you to keep your eyes on anyone except Jesus.

As a new Christian, don't feel that because you are saved, the devil is going to leave you alone. On the contrary, he is going to do all he can to hinder

you.

Also, you never really know how or when Satan will attack you. But you can be certain that he will. The devil is smart, and he knows all about our weaknesses. These weaknesses will be the target of his heaviest attack. But don't be discouraged, for "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Don't forget that no matter how rough things may be, Jesus cares for you. God will not let the devil tempt you with more than you can bear. Just remember to keep your eves on Jesus.

After I became a Christian, it seemed that faith was one of the hardest things for me to experience and to learn how to exercise. I believed that God had saved me, but that was about as far as my faith could go. I was reared in the church, and I knew that God was real. I knew that God could heal people, and that He was the performer of many miracles. I had heard many people talk about faith and trusting God. I had even read Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Yet I was unable to do this. Then, at one point in my life, I sat down and read the first seven chapters of the book of Luke. I was searching for miracles, and I found them. The Spirit revealed to me that Jesus Christ is the same vesterday, today, and forever! What Christ had done for someone once, He could do again. And what He had done for others, He could do for me. It dawned on me that I really do have faith in God.

Christ can do the same thing for you if you will only let Him.

In conclusion I would like to mention that as Christians we are to be Christ's witnesses. I believe that we should strive to be close to God—close enough to hear Him when He speaks and to obey His commands. If God wants you to witness to an individual, He will provide an opportunity for you. If you allow the Holy Ghost to direct you, you will be able to accomplish a great deal more for God.

It's not easy to live a Christian life: Christ never promised that it would be. God wants you daily to show your love for Him, to always have a praise for God in your heart, and to always remember that God have a praise for the control.

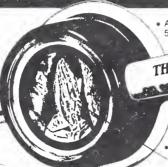
has everything under His control.

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A Report of a youth retreat for the Church of God in Northern Indiana

BY LARRY D. PEMBERTON
Pastor, Michigan City, Indiana



### **NEWS FLASH:**

The time and location of the 1976 General Assembly of the Church of God has been changed. The Assembly will convene in Dallas, Texas, August 17-23, 1976.

## WALKING ITHE SPIRIT t wa in th all th



t was Friday, October 11, at 8:00 in the evening. Everyone was registered. all the grectings were over with, and the sleeping bags had all been stashed. Al Hardin had opened with prayer, and we had begun to sing "He Is Lord." That's when the feeling came—that feeling that comes when you've worked hard, really hard, for something to which you have been committed. Yet, only in the last ten minutes had all the loose ends come together. Earlier, nerves were shot, patience short, eyes heavy. Then, slowly came the realization—the awareness—that the people were worshiping—together—one in the Spirit. There was a rush of excitement. The Holy Spirit was giving His approval in His own special way, as if to say, "This is right."

It was right; it was proving to be His will.

That was how it began—those two magnificent days of "Walking in the Spirit" amidst the oak and clm trees, resplendent with all the brilliance of autumn. The colors seemed to reflect the warmth and presence of a loving God.

Al Hardin is the associate pastor of the Glen Park Church of God in Gary, Indiana. For some time he and I had been discussing the need for bringing the youth of Northern Indiana together on a regional basis for a time of spiritual enrichment. The concept of a regional retreat met with the enthusiastic approval of State Director Raymond Culpepper. After having gained his approval, we set our goals. We were excited about the General Youth Department's them for National Youth Emphasis, "Walking in the Spirit," and it was decided that the retreat would be constructed under the same theme.

Richard Dial, from the Canton Temple Church of God in Ohio, came to speak for us; and he brought with him his own special brand of enthusi-

Continued

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

asm. His message on the first night established for him an instant rapport with the retreaters which insured the success of the retreat. At the conclusion of his message, he called for a prayer of commitment and recommitment on the part of all who were present. In the same spirit which it had begun, the first night's service came to a close, and once again we were sure of the rightness of it all.

That night stretched into the next morning with a succession of pizza, ice cream, the appearance of a character by the name of Rufus Shagnasty, and a Laurel and Hardy film. After group and private devotions were finished, perhaps the greatest miracle of all took place—the boys quietened down and went to sleep! As I lay there listening to the few die-hards who were still flicking paper wads, I reflected on the events of the day with a good, warm feeling inside.

Al and I went over the activities scheduled for the next day. There would be good recreation and fellowship. After all, the Holy Spirit is dynamic and at times can be best understood in association with fellow believers. There would be another service the next afternoon. There would be a special treat—Don Munn was bringing his choir from the Canton Temple Church to provide a special musical service. What a blessing that would prove to be! Yet, both Al and I were experiencing real apprehension. The reason for our apprehension was that the bulk of the next day's activity was to be given to individual Bible study, followed by small group rap sessions on given themes. As a misdirected paper wad glanced off of Al's forehead, we wondered just how well seventy teenagers would accept the program of study.

The next morning, after a breakfast of milk and donuts, the group was assembled so that the study procedure might be explained to them. Study guides for two Bible studies had been prepared, and each retreatant would receive a guide for one of the two. One was entitled "Walking in the Spirit," and involved a discussion of the

life-style that the title suggests. This study drew heavily upon the contrast between the seventh and eighth chapters of Romans. The other study was on the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and challenged the retreatant to search through the prescribed scriptures to build his own case for the validity and nature of the experience. The teens were to take a Bible, pencil, and study guide, find a quiet place to work, and pursue their subject through the Word. Afterward, twelve sponsors, who had been preparing for some time in advance, took the small groups of six or eight teens aside to discuss what had been learned.

The results were amazing! The young people really came alive and participated enthusiastically in the discussions. For some, this was a first adventure into God's Word to research a given subject. For others, it was a faith-building experience. Some of the rap sessions became so involved that the students were actually late for lunch! Once again we experienced that warm feeling of rightness, that rush of excitement.

After a short hour and a half of recreation, we gathered to hear thirty-five exciting voices from the Canton Temple choir proclaim the gospel in song. Once again, Brother Dial spoke both to our hearts and to our needs about true surrender and commitment to the Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of his message, nearly seventy young people came forward to begin or to renew their own personal experience with the Holy Spirit.

The retreat was a success. As we closed by singing, "He's My Lord," the meaning of a verse in the fourth chapter of First John became just a little clearer. True, Satan has unleashed an all-out effort to rob the Church of God of its young people and to defeat our work; yet somehow, that fact became insignificant. Looking out at a Spirit-filled, exciting group of young people, it was clear that "greater is he that is in . . . [us] than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). How great it is to walk "in the Spirit!"



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is because we hardly know what it is like to be without it. Freedom wasn't easy to come by; many lives were sacrificed in winning the freedom that we enjoy and cherish today. To maintain freedom, we must discipline ourselves in political and spiritual devotion and we must make the right choices. By following God's plan for

By following God's plan for our lives, we will be strengthened by Him to discipline ourselves and to make the proper decisions.

I am thankful to God that I

am enjoying a life of liberty

ticket to personal fulfillment as a citizen and as a Christian.

—*Mitzi Dunn* 

on campus and the excitement of learning. I have freedom now because I am an American.

—Tim Brown





## INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION SPIRITUAL 1976

declaring our independence - not from any political power-but from the constrainthe demanding race of materialism, for our Father supplies our needs and 1. + ...... His himsdam III. London also are dree from Lear of We, the younger generation of America, join with our forefathers in worth, for we are children of God. We "further declare ourse were free from Christ hous, we declare ourselves free from all doubts about our own selfing power of our society and our age. Because we have professed our allegionce to

declare our freedom from our personal quilt, born of acts of selfishness, pride, and dearth of love; for we have been pardoned and purified by the mercy of our futile quest for pleasure, for our joy is in the lord and the simple beauty of this created moreld. We are free from the withering hatred of our fellow man, regardless of his colox or belief, because we know him to be veated in the also free from fear of our personal ditures because they are entrusted to His image of God and deemed morthy of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We are further freed from the crush of pride and vanify by our knowledge that we are nothing in ourselves but everything through Christ and His love. We We further bursby declars our independence from our givenation's divine window and are not the province of human frailty and failure. divine studge, and we thus pardon those who act without love toward us.

In this Bicustennial year of our nationis speedom, sur join in the spirit of commitment of our ancestores and declare our independence from the forces of the material world and our complete dependence on the love and will of our Father.

By Carolyn Dirksen

Youth of the Church of God

"Truthway" is a campus evangelism promotion prepared quarterly for the Lighted Pathway by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education—compiled by Floyd D. Carey; artwork by Lonzo T. Kirkland.

200-year-old nation called the United States of America, which advocates the rights of man. Among these rights is freedom of worship, which allows me to worship God and to serve Him according to my interpretation of His Word.

Because I am an American, I am free to choose whether I want to further my education, get a job, get married—or do all three.

The freedom I enjoy now is precious because it was paid for by the hard work and sacrifices of my forefathers and my parents. My church has also helped to sustain this freedom. I am indebted to these forces, and am thankful for them. God has blessed America, and God has blessed me because I am a part of this great country. I'm proud to be an American.

—Vickie Bivens



Freedom in America is often taken for granted. Perhaps it

the beauties of the earth which our heavenly Father has made for us.

—David Cato



As an American citizen I am guaranteed certain rights. I am an individual with freedom to be myself and to mold my life as I see fit. Because of the people before me who refused to be manipulated, I enjoy many freedoms that others do not have. Most importantly, I am free to serve the God I love and am free to be the person He wants me to be.

Because of freedom, I am able to attend the Christian college of my choice, enjoy Christian fellowship, and experience spiritual power. I am free to learn the spiritual truths that provide the foundation to live a fulfilled Christian life. I am thankful for my church, my country, and my Christian friends. Freedom now is important to me because it is my

country, we may select from a variety of opportunities to pursue happiness, life, and liberty.

therefore in the liberty where-

I feel that young people today have more freedom than they have ever had in the past. Youth are able to participate in both social and spiritual activities. They are able to search—in many different places—for personal happiness.

I'm thankful today that I can choose my religious preference, the college I wish to attend, the jobs I desire to work at, and the friends with whom I wish to associate.

I am very grateful for being able to attend a Christian college. The Christian atmosphere is what I like most. I also enjoy the fellowship with friends

with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
Liberty and freedom go hand in hand. I am thankful that I have both liberty and freedom:
As a citizen of heaven, I have liberty; and as an American citizen, I have freedom.

Freedom assures me of the privilege to study and to develop my talents. Freedom gives me the right to cry out against corruption in government. Freedom lets me face the future with faith—faith in myself and faith in God's plan for man. Freedom is the most important thing in my life, and I am committed to doing my part to preserve it and to keep it pure.

—Loretta Jackson



## FREEDOM NOW!

What does the expression "Freedom now" mean to you? Use the space below to write down a soul expression.

## FREEDOM NOW!

You can have spiritual freedom now in Jesus Christ. You can experience freedom from sin, fear, and emptiness by accepting Christ as your personal Savior. Repent of your sins—Luke 13:3; believe Christ—Acts 16:31; and receive Christ—John 1:12.



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Moderator—Clyne W. Buxton

9:00 a.m. Devotional—Floyd D. Carey 9:10 a.m. Comments-Cecil R. Guiles

9:20 a.m. Overview of New Life Literature-O. W. Polen

Comments-F. W. Goff 9:40 a.m. 10:00 a.m. "New Life Now" (filmstrip)

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Primary—James E. Humbertson 11:15 a.m. Junior—Larry L. Benz

12:00 noon Lunch

1:30 p.m. Junior High-Larry L. Benz

2:15 p.m. Senior High—Clyne W. Buxton

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Adult-Harold Cato

4:00 p.m. Questions and Answers-Panel of Editors

4:30 p.m. Dismissal

These two Curriculum Seminars will precede the Twin Christian Education Conferences convening in Fresno (February 18-20, 1976) and in Atlanta (March 16-18, 1976). Come early for the seminars and stay for the conferences. Both the seminars and the conferences promise to be challenging and informative.

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## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

## WAYS THE FAMILY TRAINING HOUR HELPS First, F an opportuself. In S

### BY WILLIAM A. REID

State Youth and Christian Education Director of Maryland-Delaware

Many young people have a eoneept of Family Training Hour like that of the high sehool boy who cheeked out a book from the library with the words How to Hug on the eover. However, when the boy got home, he diseovered that it was Volume 7 of a set of enevelopedias. A lot of young people think that Family Training Hour is one thing when really it is something else. So you may ask, "How ean the Family Training Hour help me—a young person?" There are several things in it for you.

First, FTH provides you with an opportunity to express yourself. In Sunday school you reeeive biblieal instruction, but in the Family Training Hour you have an opportunity to express your own personal thoughts and feelings as you study biblieal truths.

Second, FTH gives you a chance to discuss problems facing you at school and at home. Your problems are unique, and the Family Training Hour is designed to allow you to discuss these problems and to come up with possible solutions.

Third, FTH furnishes you an opportunity to develop friend-ships with other young people. You and other young people are brought together to share common problems, solutions, desires, and suecesses.

Fourth, FTH provides you with an opportunity to establish a dialogue with adults by having oceasional study times with them. This can help to eliminate misunderstandings and bridge any gap that might exist. This dialogue can be used to cultivate a respect for another person's ideas

and philosophies through personal interaction.

Fifth, FTH affords an opportunity for your ereativity in programs, methods, and discussion and much more. Even the Family Training Hour group itself may become that which you and your classmates ereate.

Sixth, FTH gives you the ehance to become involved. You do not have to sit on the sidelines until some future day.

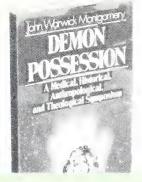
Seventh, FTH furnishes training for leadership. By serving as a group leader you receive on-the-job training in leading others to express their thoughts and ideas. After all, you will eventually shoulder the full leadership responsibility; but for the present, Family Training Hour provides you with an opportunity to learn these leadership skills under the coaching of your sponsor.

Eighth, FTH affords an opportunity for program planning. You select the subjects to be studied and outline how they are to be eovered. You have full input into how the youth group is conducted. It's your program, not someone else's.

Ninth, FTH provides you with an opportunity for growth—growth in truth, growth in expression, and growth in your daily relationship with yourself, your family, your ehureh, your community, and your God. Just as you are growing physically, you should grow spiritually. The Family Training Hour provides you with that opportunity.

Tenth, FTH gives you an opportunity for personal commitment. No one else can decide for you what you will get out of the Family Training Hour; only you can determine that. The Family Training Hour gives you an opportunity to personally commit your talents, your will, and your life to Jesus Christ.

There is something in Family Training Hour for you!  $\bowtie$ 



### **DEMON POSSESSION**

Edited by John W. Montgomery

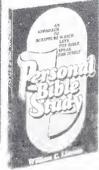
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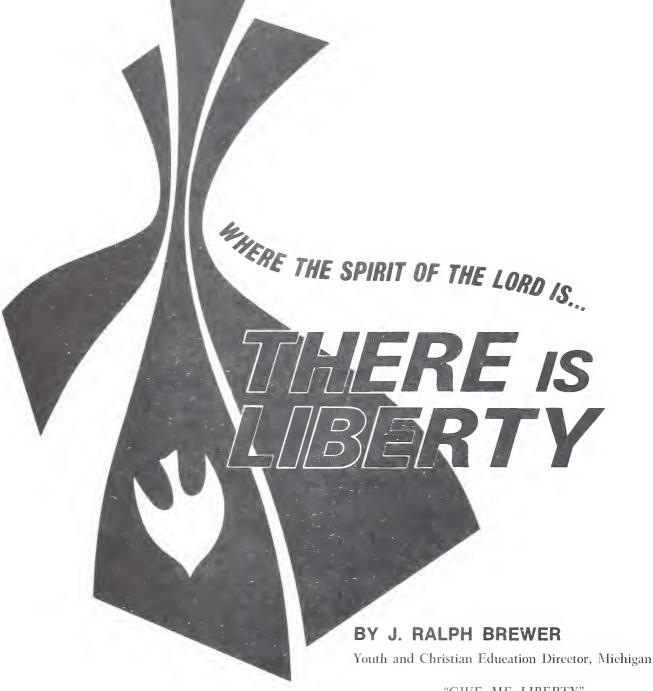
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"GIVE ME LIBERTY"

### STUDY ONE

Purpose: To show that Christian liberty is available through the power of the Holy Spirit to all who will receive it.

### Introduction:

Patrick Henry, the great statesman-patriot, said, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." Liberty is perhaps the most arousing and revolutionary word of the centuries. For it a thousand wars have

A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

been fought and countless brave men have died. It is the grand theme of the Magna Charta, the Mayflower, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Valley Forge, and Gettysburg. Its unforgettable message of hope and assurance is carved on bells, buildings, and statues, and—of far greater importance—in the hearts of the free people of the earth. To all patriotic and freedom-loving Americans, it is a possession of infinite value.

### I. LIBERTY DEFINED

Liberty means "rights, privileges, freedom." The Founding Fathers of our nation were concerned with basic human rights—the right to live, to work, to think, to speak, to be or to become whatever a man's dream and drive would permit. It was to the securing and preserving of these personal liberties that they staked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

While we deeply eherish the political, social, and economic freedom provided by our great American heritage, God's Word speaks of another liberty of the utmost importance—Christian liberty. We can live in a free country, enjoy all its civil liberties, and yet remain shackled in soul and spirit. Teenage friend, God wants you to know that a new life can be yours. There is a liberty which comes only from God, and it is available to you through the power and person of the Holy Spirit.

### II. RINGING THE LIBERTY BELL

### A. Liberty Through Salvation

The first step to achieving Christian liberty is to receive Christ personally and to allow the Holy Spirit to change your life and your direction. (Read and study the following scriptures.)

- 1. All men are born in sin and are guilty before God (Romans 3:23).
- 2. Man's sins have separated him from God and have imposed upon him the sentence of eternal death (John 3:3; Romans 6:23).
- 3. But God has good news for you—He has provided a way of escape. Christ died for your sins (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 5:8).
- 4. God hears the sinner's prayer. Not only is He ready to forgive, but He is eager to forgive (1 John 1:9; Romans 10:9, 10).

5. Through faith in Christ's atoning death and the power of the Holy Spirit, a new life belongs to you (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 1:12).

### B. Benefits of Christian Liberty

The Bible reveals numerous benefits identified with Christian liberty. God not only offers eternal life, but seeks to enrich your earthly life and lead you into discovering His inexhaustible riches and resources. Through the liberty of the Spirit we possess...

- 1. Peace (Romans 5:1)
- 2. Pardon (Psalm 102:19, 20)
- 3. Power (Galatians 5:16-21)

### Summary:

Through the above Bible study, we become keenly aware that our theme, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is . . . There Is Liberty," is not just a statement of easual importance. Nor is it merely a slogan or eliehe. It is a dynamic expression of joy and vietory, and it sets forth the wonderful provisions that God has made available to the Christian. Always remember that the suecess of your spiritual life is not dependent upon your natural or physical resources but upon the strength, leadership, and control of the Holy Spirit within you. An interesting translation of 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty." Like an automobile, your life ean have only one driver. Let the Holy Spirit take over, and discover the magnitude of the liberties that He alone ean provide.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

After earefully reading and studying all the Seripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise:

What are the basic steps to salvation?
 Based on 1 John 1:9, what happens when a sinner confesses his sins to God?
 List three personal liberties the Holy Spirit provides:
 Explain briefly what Christian liberty means to you.
 Write out (and memorize) 2 Corinthians 3:17.

Cecil R. Guiles

This month we begin a new column in the Lighted Pathway. We will call this section Youth Wants to Know, and it will deal with questions relevant to youth. Cecil R. Guiles, our general director of youth and Christian education, will prepare answers to the questions.

He will write some of the answers himself, and some he will refer to other persons. Should you have a question, send it directly to Cecil R. Guiles, Keith at Twenty-fifth Street, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Be sure to include your name, address, and age. Only answers of general interest will appear in this column.

### "HOW CAN I KNOW WHETH-ER MY LIFE IS PLEASING TO GOD?"

First, you must be sure that you know the Lord Jesus. To be o child of God by foith in Jesus Christ is the first and greatest step to pleasing God. We must desire to please the Son, who in turn pleased the Fother. God soid: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I om well pleased; hear ye him" (Motthew 17:5).

Next, you must wolk oport from oll known sin becouse you ore o temple of the living God. "Touch not the impure ond I will receive you, ond you sholl be my children" (2 Corinthions 6:17, 18, free tronslotion).

Thirdly, you must osk yourself, "Am I doing todoy whot I believe the Lord wonts me to do?" We should do whot we ore thoroughly convinced is right for us. "A double minded mon is unstable in all his ways" (Jomes 1:8). We connot transgress our conscience and please God. This does not mean that conscience is infollible, but it does mean that God con correct our conscience by His Spirit if we proctice being sensitive. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also

in him; ond he shall bring it to poss" (Psalm 37:5).

We do not please God by measuring ourselves by ourselves, by our neighbor or by comporing ourselves with other Christions. We ore children of God ond our destiny is to be like Him (1 John 3:2). We should, therefore, set our affections upon Him rother than upon the world (see Colossions 3:20).

You pleose God by knowing, being, and doing. When you know Him and are doily being conformed to His image, you will find yourself doing what He wants you to do. This poth may not always be easy; but if you are striving to pleose God, you will choose no other. The poet put it as follows:

He always wins who sides with God.

To him no chance is lost; God's will is sweetest to him when It triumphs at his cost.

Ill that He blesses is our good, And unblest good is ill; And all is right that seems most wrong,

If it be His sweet will.

Frederick W. Faber

(This onswer was prepored by Dr. Loud O. Vought, President, Northwest Bible College, Minot, North Dakoto.)



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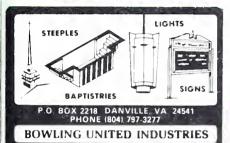
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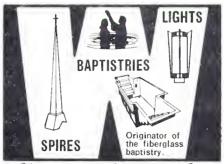
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## DID YOU no bu

### BY MATILDA NORDTVEDT

id you know that the theory of evolution is not scientifie? True seience is based on fact, and theory is not fact. Did you know that there is a huge gap between one-celled living things and the complex ereatures that exist today? There are billions of fossils of complex forms of life, but where are the fossils that show one-celled organisms

Did you know that scientists do a lot of supposing when they reconstruct an ancient man from a bone or two? The Piltdown man, built in 1912 around a piece of jaw, two molar teeth, and a piece of skull, was supposed to be an ape-man a half a million years old. In 1953, the Piltdown man was discovered to be a hoax. The jawbone had come from a modern ape!

gradually developing into complex creatures?



Did you know that the first Neanderthal skeleton that was found was reconstructed to look like an ape? The bones seemed to indicate that the creature was stooped like an animal. It has since been discovered that the skeleton was not that of an ape-man, as was commonly thought, but was that of a man with a severe ease of arthritis.

Did you know that the Neanderthal man and the Cro-Magnon, supposed to be the "missing link" between the ape and man, actually had a larger brain capacity than modern man has?

Did you know that evolutionary scientists are hard put to find one genuine missing link, while their theory demands that they find many millions in order to prove it is true?

Did you know that even though the evolutionist's geological time seale looks good on paper, the fossils don't stack up that way. Lower forms of life are sometimes found above the more complex forms in the earth's strata. Nowhere are the layers found in perfect order, as the evolutionist maintains.

Did you know that evolutionists tell us that man evolved from a very low form of life and is getting better and better? The Bible teaches that God created man perfect and that man fell into sin. Because of his sin he is going downhill instead of uphill. Man is having more and more problems, and his world is gradually wearing out.

Did you know that the reason people believe in the theory of evolution instead of the Bible account of creation is that they want to do away with their responsibility to their Creator?

Did you know that Charles Darwin, who introduced this theory, became a believer in the Bible and in Christ in the later years of his life?

Did you know that there is a marvelous design in nature? Consider the anatomy of the honeybee, the perfection of a rose, the beauty of a snowflake. Think of how our universe operates with uneanny accuracy and smoothness year after year. Think about the One who created it all. "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding" (Jeremiah 51:15).

Yes, it does make much more sense to believe the Bible account of creation than the theory of evolution.\*



### PRAISE THE LORD!

The young people were shouting, singing, and lifting their hands in ecstatic joy, creating a contagions are of a devious sort of worship. The group on stage was singing, stomping their feet, playing their instruments with proficiency, and swaying to the rhythm of the noisome music. The atmosphere was electrified with excitement.

I actually witnessed this scene, not at church, but on television. The name of the program was "In Concert." Rock groups from all over the country perform over this televised program. Neither the participants nor the andience are afraid to respond to the music or to the invisible spirit that seems to be drawing them higher.

How often I have thought that if these same individuals were to attend a morning church service, they would probably laugh or condemn the youths for their outward profession and response to God's presence. Too many young people are overly eager about getting excited concerning carnal things, but they are ready to condemn spiritual things. The Apostle Paul says, "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8).

Many young people and adults are very eager to praise sports figures and even criminals, but they are angered at the idea of praising God. If this world is not afraid to praise and exalt their carnal heroes, then why should God's holy young followers be pushed back in a corner and forbidden to praise God? We must lift up our voices all the more so the shouts of this world will not drown us out. God must be praised!

A few months ago my wife, baby, and I were invited to preach and sing for the servicemen in the Hawaiian Islands. I've noticed, generally speaking, that Christian servicemen enjoy praising God. Well, that's exactly what they did, and we joined in with them. A neighbor said we were too noisy and that we needed to be quiet. A few nights later we were walking along Waikiki Beach, and the music from the nightclubs was piercing the air. The sounds could be heard until two or three o'clock in the morning, yet no one complained that the music was too loud. Immediately, I decided that if this world can praise their prince without any interruptions, then the sons of God should praise their Lord.

There have been times when I have spontaneously praised God while shopping, while waiting at a service station, or while walking on the street, and people seemed to have been annoyed. If I had been praising the mayor or governor, my efforts would have been esteemed. Why? Because the devil doesn't want to hear God's name praised! But, I guess a little of the Psalmist David's has rubbed off on me and I can only but shout, "Praise the Lord!"





I am an American, and I am proud of my country.

- I believe in the motto, "In God we trust," and in the teachings set forth in the Holy Bible as a guide for my country and for my life.
- I support our founding fathers' dream of freedom for all—in worship, in employment, in personal expression, and in government.
- I will oppose the enemies both at home and abroad that seek to destroy the American way of life.
- I will strive to develop my talents to their full potential so that I can salute my country's flag with good conscience.
- I will face life daily with faith in God's guidance and in my fellowman so that I can hope, dream, and succeed.
- I will uphold the principles of democracy and will fulfill my duties as a citizen.
- I will seek opportunities to cultivate the free spirit of my country and to show respect for my heritage, for equality, and for the Constitution.
- I will give faithful attention to personal development so that I can assist my country in advancing in human relations, technology, and living comfort.
- I will militantly protect my sacred heritage as an American—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—with disciplined courage, vision, and commitment to God.

-Floyd D. Carey

### THE GUIDE FOR '76

A young Christian, packing his baggage for a journey, said to a friend, "I have nearly finished packing. All I have to put in the bag yet are a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of books I have been studying."

Maintaining that his Bible contained all these items, he put the Book in his suitcase and closed it. This young Christian, aware of the multiple facets of the Holy Word, was confident he was fully prepared for his trip. As we journey through the unlived days of 1976, we too should take God's Word with us to read, to study, and to follow.

This incomparable Book preaches that young people should have faith in the living God; it preaches that it is worse to suffer damage in character than loss in goods; it preaches that a blessing comes from being kind and tender. It softens without weakening, strengthens without hardening, guides without driving, and does so in forms as beautiful as they are varied.

Above all this hovers the atmosphere of love and concern of the heavenly Father. The Word of God is a storehouse of priceless possessions, without which youth would be indeed poor throughout this year. Its precepts, its injunctions, its nobility of thought, its matchless eloquence of expression elevates it above other books, making them appear anemic and trivial by comparison. Thank God for the Book!

The Bible is God speaking to youth, and His Word to youth is infinitely more important than our word about God. The book of Revelation says that it is 'the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him' (Revelation 1:1), while Peter writes that 'holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost' (2 Peter 1:21).

The thing that makes the Bible different from any other book ever written is that God has spoken through its pages, using mortal men to record His words. In this enlightened year of 1976, universal youth in search for truth would do well to drink fully at this fountain of God.

An unknown poet wrote:

The anvil of God's Word for ages skeptics have beat upon; Yet, though the noise of falling blows heard, The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone.

This year may we hide God's Word in our hearts, keep it upon our lips, and practice it in everyday living.

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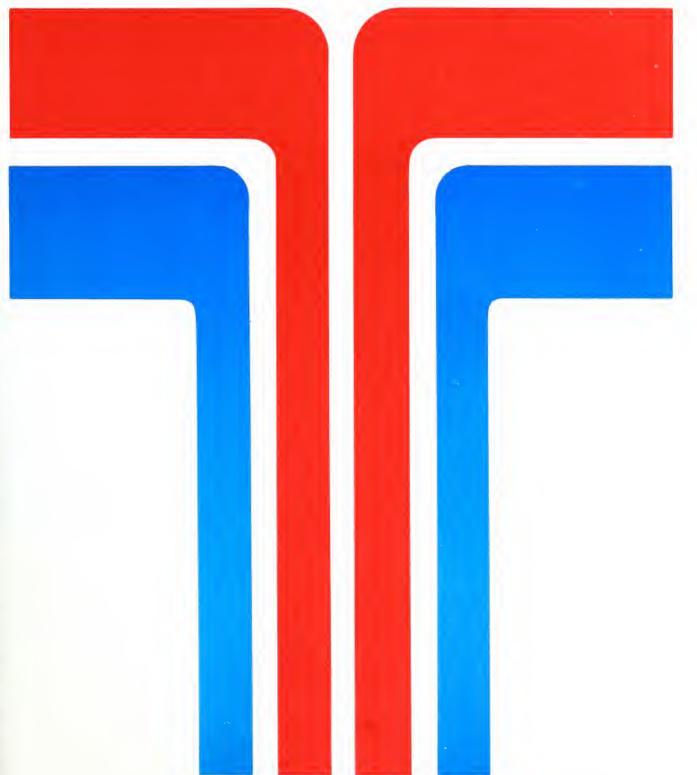
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EEN TALENT

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Youth worship God as they participate in Teen Talent.





Church of God youth have some of the best talent in the world.



Not only are one's talents developed, but the participant also grows toward maturity in Christ.



# TEEN TALENT S

As editor of the *Lighted Pathway*, I am pleased to devote this issue to the theme of Teen Talent. Having been editor of this youth magazine for some time, I have a fairly wide perspective of programs launched for youth through the years.

Many fine special projects sponsored by the General Youth and Christian Education Department have greatly blessed our youth. However, of all the effective programs for our young people, there are three which I believe to be most significant.

If I were to name them, in what I believe to be the rank of importance, they would be as follows: (1) Summer youth eamps, (2) Teen Talent, and (3) Youth World Evangelism Appeal (YWEA). Only the Lord knows the full spiritual impact of youth eamps. Too, YWEA involves youth in world evangelism on a churchwide seale.

Likewise, Teen Talent has been a tremendous blessing to our youth and to our entire ehurch. As I travel over the country, I find a minister of music here, or a musician there, or a teacher of music who were active in the Teen Talent program during their teenage years.

Now Teen Talent is greatly expanded. The program began only as a vehicle to involve youth in vocal and instrumental music. However, with the inclusion of writing and art along with music, many more youths are involved.

The writing eategory has several divisions, including (1) poetry, (2) plays and skits, (3) articles and essays, and (4) short stories. In the art eategory are (1) ceramics, sculpture, and textile; (2) graphics; (3) painting; and (4) photography. The music category includes (1) vocal solo, (2) instrumental solo (keyboard), (3) instrumental solo (nonkeyboard), (4) instrumental ensemble, (5) vocal ensemble, and (6) choir ensemble.

If you are a tecnager, you will probably want to give serious consideration to entering at least one of the eategories of Teen Talent this year. Your pastor should have the details concerning your participation.

May Christ guide you as you develop your talents for Him.

-Clyne W. Buxton, Editor LIGHTED PATHWAY



Clyne W. Buxton

I know of no program that has done more to influence young people to use their talents for the glory of God than the Teen Talent program. The Teen Talent program has contributed much to the building of strong church choirs throughout our denomination. Young people who at one time sat on the sidelines uninvolved are now singing in church choirs.

I strongly recommend the Teen Talent program to our churches. As general director of the Department of Youth and Christian Education, I have observed the tremendous influence the Teen Talent program has had on the lives of our young people. I believe that any church will greatly benefit from this unique program that is geared to the development of the talents of Church of God young people.

—Cecil R. Guiles
General Director
Youth and Christian Education

# RES



Cecil R. Guiles

Recently I preached in the chapel at the Offutt Strategic Air Command Base in Omaha, Nebraska. This base is the nerve center for the defensive air operations of the United States. A large electric sign with the word ALERT was suspended from the ceiling of the chapel and to the left of the pulpit. If a defense emergency or crisis developed while service was in progress, the letters on the sign would be illuminated and the servicemen would depart for their aircraft or place of responsibility immediately. The sign, however, even though it was not illuminated, was a constant reminder to stay alert and to be ready for service.

When I saw the sign, I quickly made a spiritual application. In church the believer must be alert and sensitive to God's presence and call. This same principle also applies to one who desires to live victoriously on a day-by-day basis. For some reason, the sign also reminded me of the Church of God Teen Talent program. In purpose—and in principle—it is designed to keep you alert to their potentials and their power to perform for the glory of God.

The Teen Talent program includes three categories:

art, creative writing, and music. The program has a threefold objective: to *discover* talent, to *develop* talent, and to *dedicate* talent. Through regional, state, and national competition, Church of God young people are led in an exciting program of competition that sparks excitement about God's talent-gifts and helps to cultivate qualities of character for adventurous Christian living.

This issue of the *Lighted Pathway* is dedicated to the Church of God Teen Talent program. Personal expressions by the editor of the *Lighted Pathway*, Clyne W. Buxton, and the General Director of Youth and Christian Education, Cecil Guiles, are included with this introduction. You will feel the excitement of Teen Talent as you read the thrilling accounts of winners and participants and observe how the program assisted them in discovering, developing, and dedicating their talents. Teen Talent participants for 1976, I admonish you to "do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

—By Floyd D. Carey, Assistant General Director Youth and Christian Education



Floyd D. Carey

#### BY CHERYL DENISE SHEEKS

erideth closed the Joor to her room, flipped on her stereot a p e player, and flung herself across the bed. Outside, the rain beat steadily against the window, punctuated by an occasional flash of light and clap of thunder.

"When I'm drinking my Bonaparte Shandy,

eating more than enough apple pies,

will I glance at my screen and see

real human beings starve to death

right in front of my eyes?"
The O'Sullivan record filled the room. "Nothing rhymed," it

continued, "Nothing good, nothing bad, nothing ventured . . ."

"Hey," thought Merideth. "That's it! You've tuned me in, O'Sullivan. You're reading me exactly right. That's just the way it is with Merideth Montgomery! Nothing rhymes!"

"Merideth, your mother would like to see you," called the house-

keeper.

Merideth dashed into her powder room to freshen up a bit before running downstairs. She couldn't let her parents see her discontent. After all, they had bought her everything a girl could want. Why shouldn't she be blissfully happy?

"Merideth, dear," explained Mrs. Montgomery, "your father and I will be out for the evening."

Merideth nodded, saying nothing. For as long as she could remember, her parents had been coming or going, leaving her with others. A tide of resentment and insecurity rose within her.

"I'm fed up with this whole mess!" Merideth thought as she heard the door close behind her busy parents. For her, it would be another evening of homework, television, bathtime, and bedtime—alone. She dragged out the stack of books that she had carried home from Valleyview Academy and busied herself with an algebra assignment which promised to be too much for her.

"I wonder who?" muttered redeyed Merideth as she jumped to grab the ringing telephone. "Hello."

"Merideth? C i n d y Taylor. Know me? I'm in your Sunday school class."

"Uh—yes." An awkward pause made both girls aware that they had never talked before. "What's up?"

"I don't know, exactly. I've been thinking about something I'd like to do, but I fear the job is too big for me."

Continued on page 12

## TEEN TALENT-

# AN OPEN DOOR

vou want know why Teen Talent is so great. So vou want to know if all that time and preparation is really worth it. So you want to know why you, as a musician, need to get involved in it. Well, let me tell you. Teen Talent is an open door to the musical stage of the Church of God, a stage just waiting to be filled with competent people who have proven themselves to be good, not just musically, but musically for the church. The contest is that proving ground where the sincere is chiseled from the superfluous; it is where we that are young church musicians can be heard and shown to be serious about our stand for Jesus Christ with an artistic perspective.

It was with great excitement that I entered Teen Talent competition in my early teens. Eagerly I anticipated the opportunity to display the ability God had given me, along with the practice which I had added to polish my skill. While listening to some of my competitors, I came to realize

that there was a higher level of development in the field of music than I had attained. As you may have guessed, my attempt at winning that particular contest was not entirely successful. However, I returned home with renewed interest and challenge, along with an added insight into the possibilities of good church music.

Wow! I worked awfully hard those next two years. And all the time my skills were developing as I was motivated by the approaching contest. Nevertheless, at the end of the competition's activities there I was again—outside the winner's circle. I don't mind telling you that I was just a little bit disappointed. However, my determination to achieve the goal was very deep-seated.

Using some of the errors I had made as a working base, I began another period of preparation so that I would be ready in time for the next Assembly year. By this time I had begun to develop some confidence in myself, which all good performers must do. There were. however, many trying hours, but the Lord was always right there to see me through. Learning to depend on the Lord was probably one of the most valuable lessons I learned during this time. He helped me to know that He was still with me even if I did forget the entire second section of my tune during the final rehearsal before the performance. To me, this concept is an integral part of being a Christian musician-knowing that God is a dependable helper, even after you have done all that you can possi-

Well, my third time around in Teen Talent competition, I finally made it all the way to the top. I was fortunate enough to win the National Level of Competition in the Instrumental Solo—Keyboard Division. This experience was really a highlight in my life. Just

as important, though, were the insight, motivation, and opportunities gained by my participation in Teen Talent.

The next fall, the halls of ivv at Lee College saw me venturing through their doors as a freshman, ready to continue my education in a Christian environment. Through contacts made there, and even previously at Teen Talent competitions, I was eventually privileged to become the pianist for the Lee College Singers, a position I still hold. Through this ministry, I have been able to witness to more people about the Lord and to influence them toward the Christian life than would ever have been possible otherwise.

Now you know why I feel that Teen Talent is so great and why I believe it's all worth it. Now you know why you, as a musician, should become involved. Let me challenge you, as one who has had the experience, to realize your potential. Allow God to use you to be the kind of Church of God musician with which both you and He can be pleased. The time to start is now. The way to start is Teen Talent. So hurry up and get to work; I'll see you at the contest.

—Phil Thomas

Phil worships the Lord at the piano.





## TEEN TALENT WINNERS

#### MUSIC

Year	Vocal Solo	Instrumental Solo Keyboard	Instrumental Solo Nonkeyboard	Instrumental Ensemble	Vacal Ense <b>m</b> ble	Choir
1964	Rita Coleman Ohio	Phillip Coak Alabama		(Song Leading) John Miller Florida	Joy Bells Narth Carolina	Cleveland (South) Tennessee
1966	Randy Weeks Alabama	Sharon Abbatt		Trambone Quartet Fort Myers, Fla.	Ft. Myers Trio Flarida	Cleveland (North) Tennessee
1968	Barbara Tally Alaba <b>m</b> a	Denise Harrison Alabama		Naples Brass Ensemble Florida	Fairborn Trio Ohia	Sumitan Youth Alabama
1970	Gay Pettyjohn Tennessee	Diane Jeffords Geargia	Edward Starne Georgia	Hialeah Brass Ensemble Florida	Masinee Trio Wiscansin	Cleveland (Westmore) Tennessee
1972	Jimmy Phillips Tennessee	Phillip Thomas Florida	Trunicia Hamby Georgia	Pelzer Ensemble South Carolina	Lenoir City Trio Tennessee	Crichton Alabama
1974	Teresa Lefevers Alabama	Darrell Mitchell Narth Carolina	David Miles North Carolina	Maranatha Flarida	Gap Hill Teen Trio South Carolina	Charlestan (West Ashley) South Carolina

#### **ART**

Year	Photagraphy	Painting	Te×tiles	Ceramics	Graphics	Sculpture
1972	Wally Ambrase Tennessee	Kathy Plawman Ohia	Jaan Thomas Tennessee	Judy Kelly Tennessee	Sue Raszler Narth Dakota	Crystal Hancock Sauth Carolina
1974	Debbie Benker Tennessee	Elaine Hammonds Hawaii	Anita Lint Michigan	Deanna Davidson Montana	Carolyn Woadard Mississippi	Wallace Brown Indiana

#### **WRITING**

Year	Articles and Essays	Plays and Skits	Poetry
1974	Pally D'Anne Heil	Marcene Montz	Patty Lynn Hall
	Texas	Florida	Maryland

or almost as long as I can remember, music has been a very important part of my life. I well remember how, when I was only five years old, my mother would get my book, *Teaching Little Fingers to Play*, and I would sit down and play the piano for her. Music lessons have meant hours of practice and hard work at times; yet, they have been a source of enjoyment and fulfillment.

The first time I remember playing the piano at church is not a very pleasant memory. It was during the Christmas season and I was playing the beautiful carol "Silent Night." Suddenly I forgot my piece! I remember bursting into tears and running down off the platform. Little did I know that in a few years I would become an active pianist in the church.

When I moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, almost three years ago, I was given several opportunities to play for church services. After learning that I played the piano, our church evangelism director asked me to become the pianist at one of the outreach missions. I was happy for this opportunity, and today I am still active in the outreach program of our church.

Being able to go out to the chapel to play the piano has been a tremendous blessing to me. I look into the faces of the people who would never be able to attend church if we did not "take the church to them." I thank God that He gave me this opportunity to work for Him. I am not a speaker and I will probably never be able to get up and teach these precious people about Christ, but I feel that I can share His love by playing the piano at their worship services.

In 1974 our music director asked me to enter the Ten-

BY YVONNE BELL



Yvonne is a gifted pianist for her local church.

# Sharing God's Love Through Music

nessee State Teen Talent program. I had entered a Junior Talent program in South Carolina at ages eleven and twelve, and I had won; however, I was still surprised when I learned I had won first place in the Ten-

nessee State Teen Talent competition in the keyboard division.

I was thrilled to represent Tennessee at the General Assembly in Dallas. I did not win there, but I came away feeling that every anxious, nervous moment had been well worth it. I enjoyed meeting other teenagers from Churches of God around the world and sharing many memorable experiences with them.

I am now serving as the pianist for two choirs at the North Cleveland Church of God (the teen choir, Daybreak, and the men's choir, The King's Men) in addition to my outreach work. I really have found enjoyment in accompanying these choirs. Being able to work with others for the glory of God is a great privilege.

Piano lessons still continue, although I am not sure if I want to pursue a career in music or in some other field. However, whatever I do, wherever I am, I will use my talents for God's work.



# Kimberly Youth Choir Ale

imberly Chureh of God Youth Choir planned for months to enter Teen Talent competition in

Alabama. From the beginning stages, even with preparation for regional competition, the choir and I sensed the spiritual laxness of the whole group. Though not much was said or done about it at the time, the Lord blessed us at the regional competition in spite of our spiritual status by helping us to sing the best we had ever sung—and we won.

Preparations began for state competition—getting new outfits, having frequent rehearsals, making special visits and tours to other churches to sharpen our sound. The last Monday night

"We will forever remember the excitement and thrill of participating in the national Teen Talent competition."

prayer meeting of our young people before state competition marked the beginning of an opening up of a new spiritual world that our young people would be experiencing. A unified prayer resulted in a breakdown of pride among our choir members and resulted in a reliance upon the Holy Ghost that was new and exciting.

We went to state competition willing to face defeat, but humbly hoping to see victory. Only one choir competed against us—a choir that we felt had definitely outsung us. You can imagine how we all jumped sky-high when the runner-up was announced and it wasn't the Kimberly Youth Choir. We had won the state competition.

From June 15 until August 1—only forty-eight days—the Lord stretched our efforts and our money to a total of \$5,000. We received financial help and spiritual encouragement from the Sumiton and College Park Churches of God, as well as from the State Youth and Christian Education Department.

On Thursday, August 8, 1974, the Kimberly Youth Choir left for Dallas—not to win national eompetition, but merely to do their best with God's help.

After a long, hard fourteen-hour trip, which had begun at 5:00 a.m., the ehoir arrived in Dallas. Total, unequivoeal, mass eonfusion reigned at the hotel when we went to eheek in. Eight people had been overlooked in the hotel's assignment of rooms. We spent an hour and a half loeating two empty rooms! The kitchen was definitely not prepared for fifty people at 8:00 p.m.

Friday morning the kids arrived at the theater at 9:00 a.m., a little refreshed but greatly exeited about their upcoming hour of competition at 4:00 p.m. Rehearsal passed quickly; and an hour later, after singing under

very poor conditions with half the choir on some improvised risers and half on the floor, we paused for prayer. Something happened! A spirit of thankfulness, restfulness, happiness, and love ran like an electric current through the entire group. It is hard to put into words how close to heaven we felt. We all cried together as this electrifying force welded us into a group with one mind and one accord.

The choir went back to the hotel to get refreshed, eat lunch, and prepare for the competition hour. Someone suggested that they all meet together in one room to pray. God allowed the Holy Ghost to minister, and our 15-year-old pianist who had sought the Holy Ghost for quite some time began to speak in a heavenly language right there in that hotel room—reason number two why God had made it casy for us to go to national competition.

Competition hour arrived! The choir walked onto the risers; they sang: they walked off the risers. I went backstage to discover with dismay that my choir was disobeying a very strict order they had been given. They had been told to go immediately out the stage exit to make room for the next choir. My choir members were all standing just inside the door. They had stopped there to lift their hands in the air, to cry, to shout, and to praise God for answering prayer. Actually, they weren't being disobedient—they were only responding to a higher, greater order: to worship and praise their God for doing what they had asked Him to do. They were overwhelmed with love and felt compelled to thank God for His anointing and for His miraculous help. They had sung the best they had ever sung!

I realized, however, that we had to move, so I gently took hold of upraised arms and led my



Our youth choir had never sung better than they did during the competition.

kids out the door. I told them, "We'll have to shout outside!"

Saturday night we went to the Awards Program expecting not to win, but expecting somehow to be rewarded for yielding to the anointing of God. We had that assurance and joy and happiness that comes when you know that you've done your very best for God.

We were thrilled to receive recognition in rating superior—one of only two choirs to receive this honor; and we were humbled to realize that our best was not quite good enough to achieve the status of national champions—reason number three why God had made it easy for us to go to national competition.

For weeks prior to the Assembly, the choir had prayed that God would give them a chance to witness while they were in Dallas. I'll mention only two of the many opportunities that presented themselves.

On Saturday the choir went sight-seeing at Fair Park on Museum's Row. Near one of the museums the kids found an empty amphitheater. They grouped themselves and started singing right there in the open with one of the choir members directing.

They sang "I Am So Happy" and "Ye Shall Be My Witnesses"; passersby smiled, listened, and possibly received a seed into their hearts from the Word of God in song.

On the way home when we stopped at a restaurant, the choir had a chance to witness. While they were placing their orders, they were laughing, talking, and generally minding their own business. A lady nearby walked over to one of their tables and said, "I just had to find out who you happy people are and what makes you so happy!"

In the coming years, as a direct result of Teen Talent competition, we expect to experience both collectively and individually, many additional spiritual lessons. We hope to develop the fruit of the Spirit and to so live that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our daily lives. We will forever remember the excitement and thrill of participating in national Teen Talent competition; and, of course, we can never forget the spiritual heights we reached, the spiritual unity we achieved, and the spiritual blessings we received!

> —Marla Wilson Choir Director

## Continued From Page 6

"We-well, what is it?"

"Saturday I was feeling depressed—feeling sorry for myself. I walked down Center Street and just kept going. I found myself in Southside, a low-rent housing project. Everywhere I looked I saw kids—hungry, dirty, lonely kids. Suddenly, I wasn't thinking about myself anymore. You know, I forgot my problems. I began to feel fortunate and to think I would be happier if I could help those kids. I can't seem to push the idea out of my mind. . . ."

Thus began a beautiful friendship. As days passed, Cindy became more dedicated to her strange attraction to the children at Southside; but Merideth had mixed emotions.

How could she fit into this situation? How could ole unrhymed Merideth really get involved in anything? Why, she struck out at talking with parents and classmates. How could she ever expect to communicate with poor little kids whose world she knew nothing about? But why was it this way? Hadn't she asked Christ to be her Savior? Yes, she remembered that Sunday. But had she ever committed herself to any genuine service for Him?

Cindy continued to talk and dream 'until she was going regularly to the housing project and finding a park bench or a doorstep where she could talk or play with the children. Eventually, Cindy and Merideth were a team, invading Southside weekly with puppets, stories—and love. Each week, the number of children meeting under the big oak tree in front of 4652-B became bigger and bigger. At the same time, Merideth's world grew bigger and bigger!

One Saturday afternoon it was pouring rain. Merideth couldn't

go; the children wouldn't be outside. It would be muddy under the oak tree. How sad and disappointed she felt! Merideth hadn't realized just how involved she had become. Somehow, Saturdays had become a time when she seemed to rhyme. °

"Daddy," Merideth ventured, "Do you know what Cindy and I have been doing on Saturdays?"

"No, Merideth. Does it matter? I trust you, you know," he answered, hardly looking up from his Business Today magazine.

"Yes! It really does. Today I can't go, and I realize just how much it does matter."

"What are you talking about?"
"Well, for several weeks Cindy
and I have been going across
town to the Southside housing
project. We just give love to those
children. Oh, you wouldn't believe how precious they are!"

Mr. Montgomery couldn't believe his eyes and cars. Was this the timid little girl whom he had showered and sheltered all her life speaking?

"Oh, Daddy, little Cathy has no daddy and her mother is sick. Davy climbs all over me as if no one ever paid him any attention. You should see Sherry. She has big blue eyes and blond curls. She's a doll, even though she never wears nice clothes."

Mr. Montgomery was impressed. Soon Southside dominated family conversation; eventually, a whole new life-style emerged as each member became involved—physically and emotionally.

Weeks became months. With the turning of each calendar page came new challenges and new victories. The more they gave, the more they had to give!

One Saturday as Cindy and Merideth sat under the big tree, surrounded by dozens of eager children, a man with a camera approached them.

"May I join you?" he asked.

"Certainly," responded Merideth. "We may even need you to help us."

The man was full of ques-

tions as he snapped an action shot or two. How long have you been coming to Southside? What made you want to do this? What are your plans for the future? That question led Merideth and Cindy to share their own private dream that someday there would be a community center and some playground equipment in the development. How many cold and rainy days had they lamented, "If only we had a building!"

The next Saturday Merideth was up early. She must shampoo her hair, return some books to the library, and prepare for Southside. Downstairs she found her parents drinking coffee and sharing the morning newspaper.

"Oh, Merideth!" panted Mrs. Montgomery. "We're so proud of you. We're not only proud of what you have done for the people at Southside. We're proud of what you have done for us!"

"Thanks, Mother, but I have been going to Southside for about three years now. Why do you greet me so early in the morning with this?"

"Here's why," interrupted Mr. Montgomery, pointing to a picture and feature story in the morning *Times-News*, telling about their work at Southside.

As Merideth read the article, tears filled her eyes. A city-wide fund-raising campaign would make her and Cindy's wish for a building come true.

Silence filled the room. Slowly Merideth picked up the paper. She reread the article. Laying it aside, she said to herself, "Merideth Montgomery, do you remember when you spent your spare time in your room crying because your life was 'nothing good, nothing bad, nothing ventured'? . . . Merideth Montgomery, why are you crying now?"

## 1976 NATIONAL YOUTH EMPHASIS





Phase Two Planning Guide

Nationwide Tract Cruzade and Freedom Rally March 26, 1976

## Nationwide Tract Crus

## Friday, March 26, 1976

#### PROCEDURE FORMAT

#### **Bicentennial Program**

This is the second part of a five-part National Youth Emphasis Bicentennial Program—Nationwide Tract Crusade and Freedom Rally. The theme for the National Youth Emphasis Program throughout the vear is "A Call to Freedom."

The Church is in the closing days of world history and new and bold ventures in evangelism are needed. In fact, they are imperative if we are to survive the onslaught of Satan's attacks. We are living in troublous times, and I believe the Great Commission is voiced with just this kind of urgency.

#### **Tract Crusade**

The tract crusade is a bold new cvangelism ministry with a two-pronged approach: onc, a distribution of freedom tracts on the high school campus; two, a freedom rally to be held at the church, community building, or wherever it is most practical for your youth groups.

This kind of youth emphasis gives each young person an opportunity to share the gospel both on the high school campus and off the campus in a relaxed, informal setting.

On campus it will be an individual effort. At the freedom rally it will be a group effort. Sharing faith offers great blessings, and there is no greater mission field (per square foot) than the high school campus.

#### PROCEDURE FORMAT

#### **Action Committee**

- 1. The Action Committee should be made up of the pastor, Family Training Hour leader, teen Sunday school teacher, three adults, and three teens. The pastor, FTH leader, and Sunday school teen teacher should appoint the youth to serve on the committee.
- 2. The Action Committee will be responsible for planning, implementing, and promoting the two activities.
- 3. The Action Committee should appoint support committees for the following areas: tracts, publicity, follow-up, refreshments.

#### Activities and Service Schedule:

#### Tract Crusade

During School—Tract Distribution After School—Tract Distribution

#### Freedom Rally

7:00-7:30 p.m.

Open rally with prayer by a young person. Have different youths to lead choruses. Allow time for teen testimonies related to freedom in Christ.

Use your own young people, or arrange for a special group, to provide special music.

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Have a guest speaker conduct a Bible study or rap session, or show a film; conclude the session with a discussion.

8:30-9:00 p.m.

Enjoy a period of food, fun and fellowship. This will be a good time for personal witness and conversation on an informal basis.

9:00 p.m.

Close with a time of prayer together.

#### **PROGRAM RESOURCE**

#### Tract Crusade

The tract distribution should take place on Friday during school and after school. A Tract Committee should be appointed to direct this vital phase of the program. The responsibilities of this committee are listed under Committees and their Duties.

#### Rules for Tract Distribution

- 1. Always distribute tracts with prayer and visible passion.
- 2. Always read the tract before giving it to others.
- 3. Always use respect and dignity and display Christian maturity.
- 4. Always greet your prospect with a smile and place the tract within easy reach as you say, "I would like to give you a freedom tract."
- 5. Always be tactful and do not try to force anyone to accept a tract.

# e and Freedom Rally

- Always keep your tracts in good condition, unsoiled and neat.
- 7. Always have the name and address of your church printed or written on the tract.

#### The Freedom Rally

The freedom rally can consist of a film, Bible study, discussion, special speaker, teen testimonies, special youth singing groups, rap session, and food and fellowship. We suggest that you have the rally on Friday evening. The youth of the local church will still be excited about the *tract action* at school and the *tract impact* will still be fresh on the minds of classmates. It will be a natural conclusion to the program.

#### **COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES**

#### **Tract Committee**

The purpose of the committee is to make thorough plans for securing and distributing the tracts. Duties:

- 1. Secure tracts from the General Youth and Christian Education department. (A special tract entitled "A Call to Freedom" has been designed for the program and may be ordered by using the special order form included in this Planning Guide.)
- 2. Divide the tracts into packets according to the number of young people involved.
- 3. Stamp the address of the local church in the provided space and fill in the date and time of the freedom rally.
- 4. Decide on the area of the campus in which each person will pass out tracts.
- 5. Go over the rules for tract distribution with the entire group.
- 6. Instruct the group to invite their classmates to the freedom rally as they give them the tract.

#### **Publicity Committee**

The purpose of the committee is to make youth aware of the freedom rally. Duties:

1. Advertise the program—use posters (consider a poster contest).

- 2. Use the newspaper, radio and television, and community bulletin board where available.
- 3. Ask store owners about placing a sign in store windows.
- 4. Place posters at school where possible. (How about placing one at your wall locker?)
- 5. Consider handbills.
- 6. Do a mail out.
- 7. Use church bulletin boards and Sunday school classrooms.

#### Follow-Up Committee

The purpose of the committee is to follow up on all persons who showed interest and who were receptive during the tract distribution and the freedom rally. Duties:

- 1. Get names and addresses of all interested young people.
- 2. Use a follow-up Bible lesson. Consider five Bible lessons used in Evangelism and Home Missions Department Program: "The Way of Salvation," "The Separated Life," "Power to Witness," "The Coming of Christ and the Millennium," and "Stewardship."
- 3. Give list of prospects to your pastor.
- 4. Don't be quick to give up on a prospect—stay in touch.
- 5. Pray for guidance.

#### Refreshment Committee

The purpose of the committee is to make plans to serve refreshments following the freedom rally. Duties:

- 1. Plan a menu and determine cost.
- 2. Devise a plan whereby the refreshments can be served free of charge.
- 3. Secure food and prepare everything prior to the rally.
- 4. Select persons to serve refreshments and outline a serving strategy.
- 5. Make arrangements for cleanup.

Plan now to gct your youth group out of the stands and into the ball game. Get involved in the National Tract Crusade and Freedom Rally.

# ORDER FORM NATIONAL YOUTH EMPHASIS "A CALL TO FREEDOM"

#### Souvenir Patch



A red, white, and blue embroidered patch has been designed for Church of God youth as a souvenir of the 1976 National Youth Emphasis program.

#### Crusade Tract



The attractive tract, bearing the logo "A Call to Freedom" is to be distributed on campus on Friday, March 26. It can also be used as a general witnessing tool.

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Ship to:	NAME		

#### Please send me:

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	Tracts—''A Call to Freedom''	\$2 per 100	
	Souvenir Patch—"A Call to Freedom"	\$1.00 each	

Total \_\_\_\_\_

A check must accompany order

## MY WORLD

I came to a place, totally prepared for what did not happen.

And so like a soft sunray on the sea, the unexpected came: Its name was Question.

Its delight was to torment and to make me doubt all that had held me safe and secure from birth.

My rosy cocoon slipped away, and I gasped at what I beheld.

No longer was the world a small sphere, inhabited by slow, drawling speakers; but it was a large, confused mass that was beautiful, yet so ugly.

The unnatural made my new world beautiful—
the unnatural made it bleak.

The natural was the same green grass, and trees and birds and flowers which I had always seen—but they seemed so vibrant.

The unnatural was also the same—but for the first time I saw in all its hideous monstrousness my own prejudice and bigotry.

My last vestiges of innocence and righteousness fell away when I realized that, although I said, "Love your brother," I didn't really mean love everyone—just the ones who are my color, or, who think like I do.

And Question tormented me until I realized that love encompasses all—

Red and Yellow,
Black and White—
they are precious
in His sight.

-Sandra Paulette Davis

he Lamplighters are a team of young people who use their talents for the glory of God. To my knowledge, we have a larger teen band than any other local church in the Church of God.

The State of Kentucky has been represented many times during the past seven years in national competition by the Lamplighters—as an entire group, as individual groups, or as soloists within a group.

At the Teen Talent state finals in 1974 we were all smiles when it was announced that we had won four out of the six categories. But our smiles began to fade when we realized the total expenses involved. The cost of our trip to Dallas, Texas, for forty-four people for eight days came to \$7,044.

The Lamplighters were a determined group of young people, however. We began to pray and to put our God-given talents into action. We played and sang in churches and in shopping centers. We had car washes, cake bakes, candy sales, auctions, rummage sales, antique sales, and fabulous junk sales.

The news media, radio sta-

## THE LAMPLIGHTERS

#### SOMERSET, KENTUCKY, YOUTH BAND

tions, photo studios, merchants, churches, and restaurants went all out for us. The city and county officials and the Chamber of Commerce also supported us.

On Friday night before we were to leave for Dallas on Sunday we needed seven hundred dollars to reach our goal. The next day, however, we sponsored a concert featuring local talent and raised over one thousand dollars. We reached our goal with some to spare.

We chartered a Greyhound bus, and at 5:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon we headed out for Dallas—the site for the national Teen Talent competition. Shortly, we stopped at a park and had a picnic with the fried chicken, burgers, and delicious turnovers that had been donated to us. It was a trip of a lifetime for our youth.

We arrived in Dallas Monday at noon. The Lamplighters along with several other groups, were featured on Monday night at the musical festival. It was quite a send-off for competition when our group received a standing ovation.

We were involved in Teen Talent competition several days and heard the finest in musicboth instrumental and vocal. Then came the night to announce the national winners. There was great excitement as we waitednot so patiently-for the announcement. Our choir, trio, and nonkeyboard soloist received excellent rating. Then came the big moment-music ensemble finalists. The spokesman said, "First runner-up—tlie Lamplighters!" There was a period of silence on our part. Not being a national winner was somewhat of a letdown. But, we were thrilled and happy to have had the honor of being one of the three instrumental ensemble groups to receive a superior rating.

Teen Talent competition was wonderful and it made a lasting impression upon the individuals in our group. One of the greatest thrills and blessings for the Lamplighters was for the band to get to play twice for the thousands of ministers, delegates, and visitors of the General Assembly. With the aid of their music directors, Glenda Wilson and Walter Mauldin, the Lamplighters did their best for God and His church.

On Sunday morning we loaded on the Greyhound and headed for home—a very tired but happy team. Teen Talent was an experience our youth will never forget. It has given them a vision and faith to attempt big things for God in life.

—Cecil (Pop) Dalton Organizer and Director

Our youth raised over \$7,000 for the expenses of the trip.



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LAMP SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE

## Teen Tolent Made an Impact on My Life Darlene Mills

David Nitz

I thank God for the privilege I had to participate in Teen Talent. If we are going to do anything for God, we should strive to do it right. The Teen Talent program helps youth to use their talents right. It's great to see young people perfecting a Godgiven talent to be used in God's work. I thank God for the talents He has given to me, and I always want to use them to witness for Christ and to live a fulfilled life.

#### Trunicia G. Hamby

Being a participant in Teen Talent helped me to decide on eontinuing my musical studies in college. As a result of participating in the Teen Talent program, my life became more meaningful. I feel that the Lord has called me to work for Him in the field of music.

I highly recommend to every teen musieian participation in Teen Talent competition. You'll enjoy making new friends, and you will never forget the experience. You wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. It's an experience you will eherish forever.

You asked me how much I enioved participating in the Teen Talent program, and I am going to tell you: I loved it! All of the people on the state and national levels were so helpful and friendly. It gave me a true sense of belonging, and it helped me to cultivate a deeper appreciation for other people and their talents. The Teen Talent program has helped me use my talents for the glory of God by giving me the confidence that I need to be a greater success for the Lord.

#### Toney Holley

Every year that I have partieipated, Teen Talent has meant a lot to me. For one thing, it has stimulated in me the quality of being determined.

I will never forget the first time I participated in state competition. I was so seared I actually shook! But that wasn't the worst of it. At the end of the day I was sad and discouraged. I had not won a thing!

The next year I entered state eompetition once again. This time I was runner-up in the Keyboard Division. This inspired me and I was on my way.

Being runner-up really put a determination within me to win! The thought hit me, "If I could win second place, why couldn't I win first place?"

God really blessed my efforts, and the following year, for the first time in my life, I became a Teen Talent state winner in the Instrumental Solo Keyboard Division. Since that time, God has graciously blessed my talent.

I cannot adequately describe how much I appreciate Teen Talent. It has been a great inspiration to me, and I thank the Lord for it!

Teen Talent means involvement. We'll never know what we can do until we first get involved. Let us not be like the man that displeased God because he buried his talent, but let us be like the one that used his talent for the Lord and was blessed.

Teen Talent is great. If you don't believe it, get involved and you'll see.

#### John Harne, Jr.

Not everyone becomes a Teen Talent winner, but there are no losers. I have found the Teen Talent program to be more than just a talent contest—it provides us with an opportunity to glorify God, to meet new faces, and to encounter new ideas. The program influenced my decision to continue my study of art, and presently I am a college art major. I thank God for my talent and the many opportunities I have to serve Him.

#### Linda Thompson

The excitement of participating in the national Teen Talent competition is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. A thrilling part of the program was the opportunity to meet and worship with other teens from all over the United States. Seeing the hundreds of young people using their talents to glorify God made me even more aware of the rich potential we have for His service within the eombined efforts of our individual abilities. The entire experience was an inspiration to me to further develop my talent for carrying on God's work.

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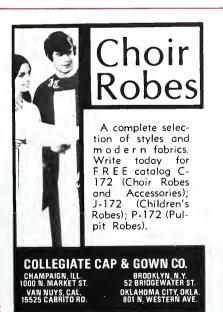
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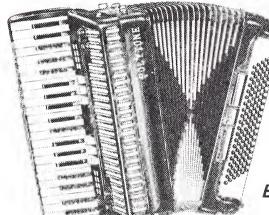
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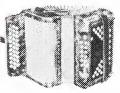
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CHECK IF YOU HAVE A TRADE-IN!

t was Saturday night, July 4, 1962, at our annual camp meeting. I was sitting in the choir area under an oldfashioned open-air tabernacle along with three hundred other teenagers. Tension had permeated the atmosphere in proportions of the first magnitude. The state youth director was about to announce the winners in a new church youth program called Teen Talent. I was a finalist. As I sat in suspense, my breath came faster and faster. It seemed as if my heart would pound out of my chest as I waited for the announcement. I observed hundreds of fans swaying back and forth as people were striving to receive a little cool breeze on that hot and humid summer's eve, and the back-and-forth motion of the fans seemingly corresponded to the steady beat of the clock. What to me seemed like an eternity was, in reality, only a few minutes. The moment of reckoning had arrived. The youth director lingered as the excitement mounted, reaching an apex of intolerableness. He spoke deliberately, "And now, the winner is . . ." I lost.

Thus began a perennial relationship between my-self and Teen Talent. Two years later I entered competition in three separate categories, hoping it would be *my* time to win. That I did. I lost in one category, was a runner-up in another, and finally—yes, finally—I became a winner.

REFLECTIONS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Mike Baker, an early participant and winner in the Teen Talent competition, discusses his impressions of the program.



As a participant in the program, Teen Talent made a dynamic impact upon my life. It put before me stimulating goals and incentives. It related to me that I needed to consecrate as well as to develop my talent for the purpose of Christian service. At that point of my life I realized that God had a place and a ministry for me to utilize my talents—the ministry of music. A desire for greater development and maturation led me through a college career and into graduate school. Having served as a minister of music in many churches in various states, and presently serving as the minister of music of the Randleman, North Carolina, Church of God, I am impressed with the continuing importance of Teen Talent to Church of God youth today. Through the ministry of Teen Talent, literally thousands of teenagers have discovered and developed, their musical abilities, and have dedicated them to God for His glory. Through technical development as well as spiritual development, twentieth-century teenagers are presenting, to the best of their ability, a first-century message.

While serving as the Teen Talent coordinator at the Fifty-fifth General Assembly in Dallas, I began to view Teen Talent with a new prospective. As I witnessed hundreds of teenagers participating in competition, I felt a new responsibility to the youth of today—a responsibility as real as the very breath of life. I left the Assembly feeling a deeper commitment to the youth of the church.

Shortly after that Assembly I was asked by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education to write a manual for the Music Division of Teen Talent covering every aspect of the total program. As I initiated my study and research of the program, I asked myself the question, What are the







goals and objectives of Teen Talent? After perusing and evaluating the program of the past fifteen years, I discovered the answer in four basic goals that Teen Talent is striving to accomplish.

First, Teen Talent seeks to keenly understand youth—their gaiety, dreams, and hopes; their loneliness, frustrations, sorrows, and tears; their doubts, and their temptations. Every one of the aforementioned emotional responses, no doubt, have been experienced by youth participating in Teen Talent. But just as Jesus understood people, so must Teen Talent understand youth—both their needs and their feelings. As a tool of evangelism, it must reach out to teenagers for Christ and help them to become involved for the cause of the Creator.

Second, Teen Talent strives to guide youth. Contemporary youth throw themselves into life with gusto. They want to fill every waking moment to the fullest with activity of one kind or another. Teenagers want life-expanding experiences, and they are willing to accept those experiences from whatever source that satisfies their needs. What a challenge for Teen Talent to guide youth in recognizing that God wants to fulfill their deepest desires for living life to the fullest and using their talents for Christian witness!

Third, Teen Talent endeavors to influence youth. Teen Talent creates an environment for teenagers in which the Holy Spirit can lead them to commitment to Christ for service and can help them to understand how that commitment relates to all areas of life.

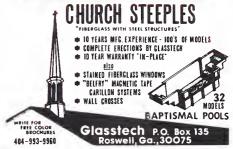
Fourth, Teen Talent reaches out to train youth. The youth of yesterday are the leaders of today. By presenting a program for youth that challenges them to become the most excellent vessel of service possible, Teen Talent is reaping an exciting and rewarding yield from its investment in youth.

Where is Teen Talent today? It is alive and in the now, affecting the lives of thousands of youth as it consistently keeps pace with the times.

As I reflect upon the vast region of the unknown —the future—I envision growth, development, and maturation. In a few short months I will assume the position of chairman of the Music Department of the newly established East Coast Bible College. This will mean a new development in my own life. Just as life may change and grow in experience, so shall Teen Talent. It will continue to grow, develop, and expand, involving more and more youth for Christ. It will remain an exhilarating and vivacious program of involvement for teenagers. What will it be in the future? A mature, expansive program functioning in the church as well as in the hearts of those it has touched. What a thrill to be counted among the thousands of Church of God young people in action for the glory of God!







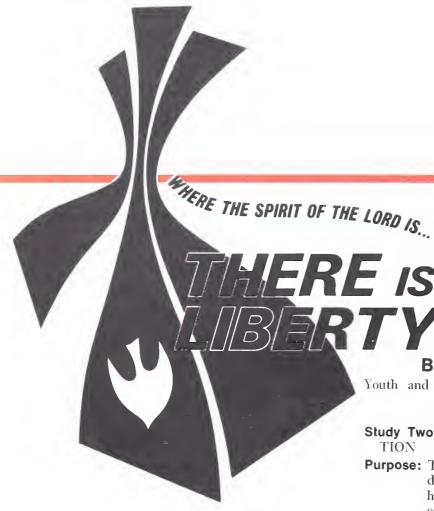


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BY J. RALPH BREWER

Youth and Christian Education Director, Michigan

Study Two: GOD'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMA-TION

**Purpose:** To show that Jesus, through His atoning death and the power of the Holy Spirit, has provided freedom from sin and its consequences.

#### Introduction:

January 1, 1863, is a significant date in American history, for it was on this date that President Abraham Lincoln affixed his signature to an important document called the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation officially abolished the practice of human slavery in this country and again underscored a basic concept of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Emancipation Proclamation not only declared the freedom of slaves, but pledged the support and power of the United States in maintaining that freedom.

Over nineteen hundred years ago, Jesus visited the synagogue in Nazareth. Taking the scroll of Isaiah, He stood up and began to read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to

A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. . . . And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:18-21).

This passage beautifully illustrates the true mission of Christ to the world and is, in effect, God's Emancipation Proclamation to the human race. God sent His Son as the Great Emancipator to break the fetters of sin and release us from the bondage of the devil. The Spirit-anointed Christ not only declares our spiritual freedom but pledges all the power and resources of heaven in maintaining it.

- **I. HOW ARE WE FREE?** (Read and study all the Scripture references.) God's Word tells us that we have become free in three ways:
  - A. Free by Purchase (1 Peter 1:18, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 1:7)
    Our Savior has paid the full redemption price for us. There is nothing more due. There is no mortgage on His inheritance. The price is all paid and we belong to Christ. Think of it! We are free this very moment—in body, in soul, and in spirit—Jesus paid it all!
  - B. Free by Privilege (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:19, 20)

    "As many as received him, to them gave he power [the right or privilege] to become the sons of God." By God's own decree, the prisoner becomes a son. From captivity in sin to sonship in the royal family of God. As a Christian, God offers you all the benefits and privileges associated with sonship in His family.
  - C. Free by Power (Romans 6:18; Romans 8: 1-17)
    The Holy Spirit not only convicts of sin but He converts from sin. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that breaks the neck of

sin and delivers us from the dominion of evil. The Spirit's power—the same power that raised Christ from the dead—has "made [us] free from sin" to become "the servants of righteousness." From the above Scripture references we may understand that price, privilege, and power meet together and work together in providing our Christian liberty.

#### II. THE CHRISTIAN'S DECLARATION OF INDE-PENDENCE

Through the Word of God, the work of grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit, every Christian teenager can lay claim to the liberties that God has made available.

- A. You are free from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:14; Romans 6:22).
- B. You are free from the guilt of sin (Romans 8:1; John 3:18; John 5:24).
- C. You are free from the penalty of sin (Romans 6:23).
- D. You are free from worry and care. (Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:7)
- E. You are free from the fear of death. (1 John 4:18; Psalm 23:4)

#### III. HANG ON TO YOUR FREEDOM

In Galatians 5:1 Paul says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Compare Christ's yoke, mentioned in Matthew 11:28-30.)

Your Christian liberty, teen friend, is a prized possession. Cherish it and hang on to it. "Stand fast" is one of Paul's favorite expressions (1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 4:1). Don't be deceived and entangled by the traps of the devil. Now that you have discovered the abundant life that Christ offers, keep your eyes on the goals of God's Word, your heart in prayer, and your feet on the path the Holy Spirit provides.

# TEEN TALENT

uring the 1972 General Assembly in Dallas, Texas, the Lenoir City Teen Trio became national Teen Talent champions in the vocal ensemble category. What a thrill that was! Not only was it just a big honor and thrill at the time; but looking back now, participating in the Teen Talent competition has had a lasting affect on each of our lives.

Each one of us, Jean, Jo, and Denise, were juniors in high school when we competed for the honor. We were very undecided as to what we would do when we finished high school. Winning Teen Talent helped us to decide that college might be the place for us because we could further our education and especially our singing abilities there. Coincidentally, we all entered Lee College in the fall of 1974. For the first semestcr wc were in the Ladies of Lee, a touring choir consisting of all girls. Under the direction of Roosevelt Miller, we toured and sang in many churches in the Eastern United States. Many souls were blessed by the Lord's anointing upon our singing, and so were we!

During the second semester, Denise became a member of the Lee Singers, the well-known choir directed by Dr. Delton Alford. She recently completed a tour of many countries in Europe singing with this group. There were many lives saved through their ministry in Europe. Jean and I also became Lee Singers in our third semester.

Stepping-stone



Because of our membership in Ladies of Lce, the Lee Singers, and various other musical groups on campus, music has been a vital part of our lives at Lee. Our years spent at Lee College have been very fulfilling not only in music, but also in other academic, social, and spiritual aspects. This past year, we were very fortunate to have been taught by some very qualified and intellectual teachers. Not only were our teachers interested in us as students, but as individuals with individual needs. Some of these teachers will be our personal friends for many vears to come.

We have met many young people and have made many lifetime friends. Many students are very dedicated Christian young people, and it has been inspiring to see them in their day-to-day experiences and to know that their Christian testimonies are for real! Christ's love is very evident in their lives. Just in the short time we have been at Lce College, cach one of us has grown spiritually. We have much to be thankful for. The Lord has guided us and directed our lives to Lee College. Now we definitely feel that Teen Talent was a giant stepping-stone in our lives because it helped us to decide, with God's guidance, to further our studies at Lee College.⊠

-lo Hamilton

# PAUL Was

# WRITER!

God uses human talents for divine purposes. Paul was a writer and God used his talent. Just look in the New Testament—there are 27 books and Paul wrote 14 of them.

Just think! If Paul had not developed his talent and allowed God to use him, where would the Christian Church be today?

Maybe God has something He wants you to write!

TEEN TALENT

CREATIVE WRITING

SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## TEEN TALENT

# ART • MUSIC • WRITING

"A Program to Guide Youth in Developing their Talents for the Glory of God"

#### **Music Manual**

The new Teen Talent Music Manual provides instructional material concerning the total spectrum of the program. Each category is explained in depth with regard to policies, preparation for performance, performance, and definition of terms used in scoring. Sample copies of scoring sheets are also included.

#### **Choral Arrangement**

The required song for choir competition in 1976 is "Battle Hymn of the Republic." A special arrangement of this song was written for the Teen Talent program by Joe Paul Pass. It is contained in an attractive 7 x 10 sixteen-page, two-color booklet. A minimum of twenty (20) copies must be ordered.

TEEN TALENT Participation Materials Order Form

Send check with order



#### **Choral Arrangement Cassette**

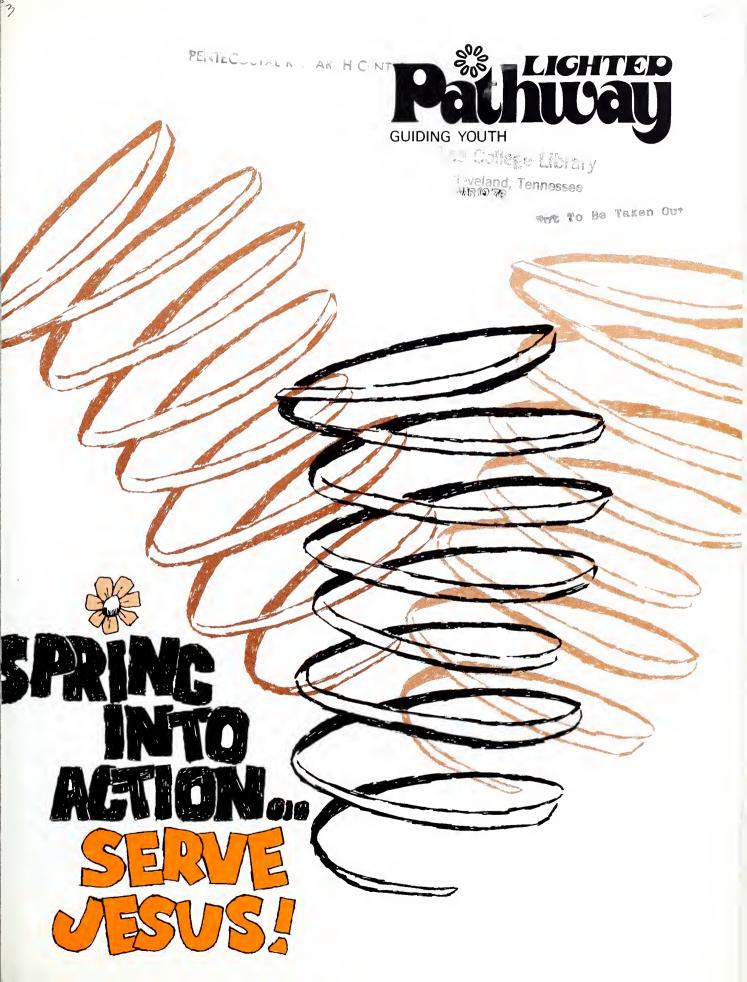
A youth choir sings the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" song on the cassette exactly as it is written. A step-by-step procedure in guiding a youth choir in learning it, and in singing it in competition is given.

#### **Participation Patch**

Every contestant will want a red, white, and blue Teen Talent participation patch. The Swiss embroidered patch will be a treasured keepsake. It will identify youth who are using their talents for the glory of God.

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### By Winnie Carey

1 1 1 1 1 loom within
I pledge allegiance A personal conviction born from within
Uncompromising devotion and loyalty.
- Chicarida and a second
to (the flag) - The "Stars and Stripes - red, white, and
to the flag - The 'Stars and Stripes' - red, white, and blue.
a sittle to a spake of
of the United States of America People of different geographical regions hound together in single- ness of purpose - life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  A Covernment for the people and his the people.
regions bound together willy
and the pursuit of phappiness.
and to the republic my Country, land of liberty.
A Government for the people and his the people.
for which (it stands; ) A visible representation of democracy and
for which it stands; A visible representation of democracy and a distinct way of life.
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 con la and
one nation A body of people with defined goals and Jovenment.
Jovernment.
under God, An awareness of and dependence upon.
The Father of life, and Designer of all things.
District of cottain social
indivisible, with liberty Positive enjoyment of certain social,
political, economic, and Spiritual
political, economic, and spiritual rights and privileges.
and justice for all. Impartial, just, and fair treatment.
All persons regardless of color, creed,

## MNOCENT

#### BY LON WOODRUM

The defense attorney faced the jury and began his summation.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury (he said), my client, Timothy Smith, is accused by the State of Agnostia of being a Christian. You have heard the testimonies given by many witnesses. Now you must determine the guilt or innocence of Mr. Smith.

Consider one witness for the prosecution: Mr. Brown. He stated emphatically that Mr. Smith is a Christian. But what proof did he offer? Timothy Smith, said Mr. Brown, reads the Bible at times. He is a church member in good standing. He is even on the board of administration. Occasionally he sings in the choir.

I ask you frankly: Is this proof of my client's guilt? Then there was the prosecution's witness, Mrs. Slammer. She testified that Mr. Smith gives money to charities concerned with helping the poor. Again, what does this prove? Atheists often do the same thing.

Confessedly, when my client took the stand, he seemed determined to make himself look guilty! He actually boasted that he was a church-goer. He said that he prays and that he knows somewhat regarding the Scriptures. He goes to Sunday school. He has read a number of religious books. He stands opposed to unbelievers.

But please keep in mind, my friends, that Timothy Smith is not accused of being a church-goer, nor with being a do-gooder. He is not accused with being an appreciated citizen of his community. He is charged with being a *Christian*. He is accused of acting according to the teachings of the Bible!

One's assertion that he is a Christian does not validate the claim. Countless persons have made such a claim falsely. After all, Judas Iscariot made such a claim! My client's association with the church bears small weight. How do we know for certain that the church to which he belongs is actually Christian?

Are you aware, ladies and gentlemen, of the demands of the New Testament regarding authentic believers? It clearly states that a Christian is *born again*; he is a new creation. God's Spirit witnesses to him that he is a child of God. He is Spirit-motivated. He has a sense of divine joy. He constantly strives toward a Christ-centered life. He is merciful, kind, and loves his fellowman.

What proof has been given in this case that these

things are true of my client. Why, Timothy Smith himself never referred to these things when he was on the stand! Did I not ask him bluntly if he had ever had a personal experience with the Lord? And he replied that he had tried to live the good life. I asked him about the New Birth and he said that he had been baptized.

Another point is this, ladies and gentlemen. The New Testament states unequivocally that a Christian is a witness for Christ to the world. No evidence from the prosecution attempted to prove that Timothy Smith was such a witness. Rather the evidence would appear to be on the contrary. Mr. Smith, though a youth, is a businessman, a worldly businessman, if you will, who, under oath, admitted that he had found it necessary at times to depart somewhat from the truth in certain deals.

Moreover, young Mr. Smith is something of a politician in his community, and admits to a bit of dishonesty at times for fear of angering his fellowmen. He confessed backing candidates who were obviously corrupt. He looked the other way when any number of operations were going on which threatened the moral and spiritual life of his community.

By his own testimony Timothy Smith has disproved the accusation that he is a Christian. He has worked hard, but to make money, not to win souls for Christ. He has had no redemptive mission. There is no evidence whatever that he ever led a single person to the Cross. When I asked him outright if he had ever influenced anyone to become a believer, what was his reply? Why, he said that he had never been drunk in his life, or gambled, or had affairs with other men's wives! And when I pinned him down and demanded if he had ever experienced any personal contact with God, he replied that he had always been a decent person!

Ladies and gentlemen, my client needs no witness to shatter the charge leveled against him. He is his own best witness! His very words reveal that he is innocent! The charge against him, in fact, is quite absurd. Had the charge been made that he is a respected citizen, or a churchman, the eharge would be justified. But it is preposterous to accuse this man of being an authentic believer in Christ!

So, please, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, bring in an honest verdict and exonerate my client of the charge against him!

The jury quit the box. They returned within an hour. The foreman faced the judge and said, "Your honor, we find the defendant not guilty."

Timothy Smith caught at his attorney's sleeve. "They actually found me *innocent?*"

The attorney put a quizzical look on him. "Do you mean you thought they might find you guilty? Be honest with yourself, man. Do you think you're guilty?"



ers, California, a neighboring town to the city of Fresno (where WCBC is located). Fresno, a city of 350,000 people, is the financial, cultural, and educational center of the great Central Valley and lies at the exact geographical center of the State of California.

Southern California (otherwise known by such names as Los

Angeles, the Dodgers, the Rams, Disneyland); and the San Francisco Bay Area (home of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Giants, the 49'ers, and Fisherman's Wharf) both lie within a four-hour drive of Fresno.

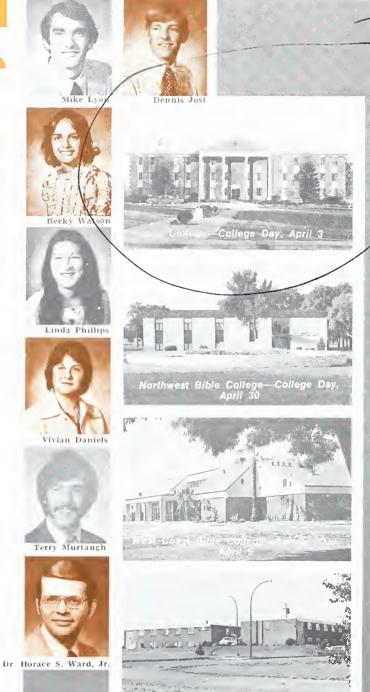
Fresno is an "all-American" city, blending the cosmopolitan complexion of urban environment

# wise know the state of the stat

BY GRANT McCLUNG

f I were to tell you why you should attend College Day at West Coast Bible College (WCBC), I wouldn't tell you about the adventurous environment, progressive curriculum, fully qualified faculty, and high academic standards at one of the West's fastest growing evangelical schools. I could tell you about warm, personal friendships, the intense spiritual climate, and the proven record of dramatic growth. However, these things sound like something a public relations director would say.

Let me introduce you to the people who are West Coast Bible College, because the secret of the WCBC experience is in a name—a name like Vivian. Vivian Daniels is the first woman student body president in the twenty-six year history of WCBC. She is definitely a Christian "activist," involving herself in every aspect of campus life. Vivian is a "hometown" girl, coming from Caruth-



and the hospitality of rural U. S. A. You'll find this welcome evident when Vivian greets you with a warm Fresno hello.

WCBC is also characterized in a name like Terry. Terry Murtaugh comes from the State of Connecticut. The recipient of the Faculty Christian Service Award for 1974-75, Terry exemplifies the spirit of WCBC which seeks to present a living, pulsating ministry to young people throughout the Church of God and to electrify their evangelistic outreach.

West Coast Bible College students engage in a very effective ministry through Christian service outreaches. In local churches, rest homes, parks, or on the streets, on telephone hotlines giving guidance, or behind pulpits proclaiming messages from God's Word, young evangelists have spread across the western United States in waves of outreach ministry.

Names like Becky and Linda constantly remind us at WCBC that we are an institution committed to a Christian world-view. Beeky Watson, from Phoenix, Arizona, grew up in Brazil (her father, the Reverend Bill Watson, is a former missionary to Brazil and is now Overseer of South America) and speaks Portuguese and French fluently. Her missions concern is heightened by the cosmopolitan culture of Central California and the city of Fresno where sixty different nationalities and more than twentyfive thousand Spanish-speaking people live. Regular foreign language programs are televised in Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese.

Adding to and enhancing the international atmosphere on the WCBC campus are representatives from twenty-four states and six foreign countries. Linda Phillips, from London, England, is one such representative; she is

preparing for active Christian service.

Dennis and Mike found they had some common interests when they arrived at West Coast Bible College. Although Dennis Jost is from the San Francisco Bay area and Mike Lyon is from Michigan, both young men have taken advantage of the common fellowship and recreation offered through the WCBC athletic program.

Dennis and Mike are part of the West Coast Bible College "Knights," who have given stiff competition to opponents in intercollegiate flag football and basketball. The 1975-76 season marks the first year that West Coast will play in the Northern California Christian Conference in intercollegiate basketball.

Much of the improvement in WCBC's athletic program (which also includes baseball, track, tennis, volleyball, badminton, and swimming) has been due to the construction of the Lawrence E. Walston Student Activities Center. Dedicated on May 18, 1975, the Walston Center is named after a former teacher and administrator.

The Walston Center houses a gymnasium, which can also be used as a large auditorium and which seats more than 1,200 people, a new cafeteria and fully-equipped modern kitchen, a student lounge, and locker rooms to serve the new gym and swimming pool.

Mike has found that in addition to the college facilities, the scenic mountains (Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks), forests and lakes surrounding Fresno provide opportunities for hiking, studying nature, fishing and hunting, and snow sports such as skiing.

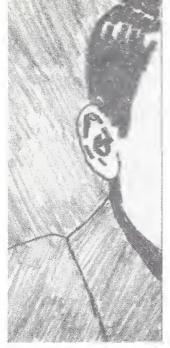
One name that must be mentioned in any discussion of the WCBC family is Horace Ward. Dr. Horace S. Ward, Jr., Ph.D.,

assumed the leadership of West Coast Bible College as President in 1971. Any Church of God young person who has attended a youth camp, teen day, or camp meeting youth service anywhere from Oregon to Mississippi has heard of Dr. Ward and his love for youth. Dr. Ward has demonstrated to hundreds of young people that West Coast is more than an archive or museum of religious knowledge; he emphasizes that it is a family of persons—individuals whose names and career objectives are more important than a social security number or a seating assignment. In fact, Dr. Ward has instituted constructive academic innovations that allow the student to initiate his own course of study, serve in college decision-making, and construct his own degree program around his future plans.

Well, if I were a name-dropper, I could go on for a long time telling you about people who have been a part of this school and have contributed to its uniqueness. I would mention people like David Bishop, Dr. Robert E. Fisher, Dr. Terrell McBrayer, Dr. Paul L. Walker, Roland Scroggins, Don Price, C. Waymon Miller, Ron Lewis, and on and on. As I said before, the secret of the West Coast Bible College experience is in a name.

But all names must decrease, and He whose name is above every name must increase (John 3:30; Philippians 2:9, 10). Yes, the special quality of colleges like West Coast Bible College is the frequent mention of the name of Jesus. His name is continually lifted high in praise.

At WCBC College Day, you'll get to know many names and friendly faces, and you'll find that whatever we do, we are seeking to "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).





## UNFAIR PUNISHMENT

#### BY ALAN CLIBURN

Question: What should I do when my parents punish me unfairly?

Answer: First, make sure it really is unfair. A teenage friend of mine gets furious at his parents when they punish him, even when he has done something he knows is wrong and was fully aware of the consequences when he did it.

Obviously this is unfair on his part and has little to do with his parents, who are merely carrying out a primary parental function: discipline.

There is a big difference between parents who suddenly come down on you for something you inadvertently did, not knowing it was wrong, and parents who have clearly set down rules and regulations for you to follow.

If you know what is expected of you and deliberately do what you want to do anyway, the person to be angry with is not Mom or Dad, but yourself.

It's immature to blame the person who administers the discipline for your mistake, and unfortunately there are many adults who still blame the policeman who gives them a ticket because they were going too fast.

As a Christian, you have to accept authority and discipline as parts of God's plan for your development. A child who is raised without learning to respect authority and discipline usually remains a child all of his life, demanding his own way regardless of who it hurts.

If you disagree with your parents about a specific punishment for a specific offense—such as coming in too late at night—the time to work out a compromise is *before* you stay out past your curfew, not after.

Obviously there are going to be times when your parents do punish you unfairly or in error. Even the best parents aren't perfect, and they are often under pressure of one type or another, sometimes totally unrelated to you.

If you do something you shouldn't have—or even if you haven't, but they think you have—they may strike out against you in a way that is grossly inappropriate.

The worst thing to do is to flare up, losing your temper. This is "repaying evil with evil," not the best idea for a Christian.

You've been around your parents long enough to know when something is wrong and the situation is a little tense. If this is the case, just accept what they tell you—no matter how unfair it may be or seem—and retreat to your room. Later, when they have calmed down, you can have a sensible, non-violent discussion.

The friend mentioned earlier gets so mad at his parents that he does and says things he immediately regrets. Usually he winds up in more trouble because of his childish behavior than for whatever offense he may have committed!

If your parents are non-Christians, it's even more important that you retain your "cool" under fire. The Lord will give you patience and strength if you rely on Him, but at the same time Satan will make every effort to ruin the testimony you may have with your folks.

"Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20: 12). Good advice, for many reasons. It will cut down on the punishment, too—unfair or otherwise.

It was October and the
Morning air was cool;
But he didn't mind:
He was going to Sunday school—
The little boy who waited.

He looked for the big church bus
At the corner of Plum and Vine.
Yes, the bus would be late,
But still there would be time—
For the little boy who waited.

Then the hands of his

New watch pointed

Ten past ten, and a big tear

Rolled down to the chin

Of the little boy who wated.

The bus didn't come that day,
Because the driver had gone away.
The captain had forgotten to call,
And the secretary cared not at all
For the little boy who waited.

He no longer stands

At the corner of Plum and Vine.
For he too is a

Victim of time—

That little boy who waited.

O Driver, Captain, and Secretary, It still is not too late; For standing somewhere on Your route each Sunday is A little boy who waits.

-James A. Guynn

THE LITTLE BOY WHO WAITED

# DEATA DEFEAT OR VICTORY?

#### BY BARBARA SANDERVILLE



n ease some of you don't know yet," the songleader said before the service started, "Harry

Edmunds died Friday, and I think we should say a prayer for his family."

I looked at him in disbelief. Harry Edmunds dead! He can't be! I mechanically bowed my head with the rest, but was unable to concentrate on the prayer.

"Why, Lord?" I asked silently, fighting back the tears. "Why did he die? We prayed for

him. You've healed people with heart attacks before. Why did Harry have to die?"

Then they were singing, and I sat there trying to still the turmoil inside me. I thought of Mary, Harry's daughter who was one of my best friends, and of Georgia, his wife. Tears sprang to my eyes again as I thought of the grief they must be experiencing.

"Why did he have to die, Lord?" I asked again. But even before the thought was finished, Job eame to my mind. He had lost all his children, and yet he had been able to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

I asked the Lord to forgive my rebellious attitude and to change it so that no matter what happened I would be able to say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

After praying I felt somewhat better, but some unexplained feeling kept nagging at me, causing a vague discontentment.

After the service was over a friend came over and asked if I'd like to go to the funeral home where the family was receiving friends. Immediately a picture of how Harry had looked the last time I saw him flashed into my mind. It was at my college graduation, and he and Georgia had walked over to me, congratulated me, and given me a card.

He had such a kind face, and he had been full of smiles, full of life. And now . . . no, I couldn't stand to see him lying there so . . . so dead.

"I don't think I could stand it," I said.

He nodded. "Would you like me to call later and see if you'd like to go to the funeral tomorrow?" he asked gently.

I nodded.

Later, at home, I thought about Harry Edmunds. I hadn't spent much time around him and his wife. They had lived in a different town, so I didn't get to see them much. Still, he'd had a tremendous influence on me; and his kindness, gentleness, and obvious love for Mary had endeared him to me.

If it's affected me this much, it must be terribly hard on Mary and Georgia, I thought. As I prayed for the Lord to

comfort them, I again felt that same nagging feeling I had felt earlier in church. Again I tried to identify it, but it eluded me.

Should I go to the funeral? I wondered. I didn't want to. I just didn't want to see that casket. It would make it too final. And yet, I didn't want Mary and her mother to think I didn't care. I decided to go.

The next day when we entered the church for the memorial service I was shocked to see the casket right in front of me—open. I hadn't expected it, and I quickly averted my eyes before I got a good look at his face.

We were seated, and shortly thereafter the casket was rolled in with the immediate family following. I glanced at Mary and Georgia, and tears filled my eyes as I saw the tears streaming down their faces.

I looked at the casket and couldn't help thinking of Harry lying inside, cold and made-up. Suddenly an overwhelming sense of defeat washed over me. That's it, I thought dully, the unexplained feeling: defeat.

We've been defeated, His family and friends who were praying, and the doctors—all defeated. He's dead despite our attempts to help.

The service began but few of the minister's words penetrated my consciousness. I kept looking at the back of Mary's blonde head, aching to remove her grief, aching to have her father alive again.

I looked from her to the casket and very clearly heard the minister say, "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:54, 55).

Of course, of course. How could I have forgotten? Nothing, not even death, can defeat a Christian!

I looked at the casket again, but this time it was different. This time I knew it was not Harry that was lying in the casket, but only the shell that had contained the spirit of a kind and wonderful man. And that spirit still lived.

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# LBERTY on CAMPU

# CREATIVE LIBERTY

Marcus V. Hand

Creativity begins with God. Read the first chapter of Genesis and note that the very first thing we learn about God is that He created. The first thing we learn about man is that he is the "image" or "likeness" of God.

Sin marred the image, to be sure, but the new birth restores us to a proper relationship with God. When a young person accepts Christ, the Spirit of God gives him the liberty to be creative.

So, joy and sorrow, fulfillment and frustration, success and seeming failure are all means by which God will use you to be creative in His world.

The poet uses temporal and

The poet uses temporal and spatial sequences as standard molds for his ideas. So must you use your time as diligently as you use your talent, and the materials around you as surely as you use the resources inside you. You then begin to live a more creative life-style, and your part of God's world becomes a better place in which to live.

Inexplicably, man has the ability to make things new in

The Holy Spirit liberates



# INVOLVEMENT LIBERTY

Bill Balzano

During the early fall season of each year, approximately four hundred students file into the Lee College auditorium to begin new student orientation. During this orientation session the new students are introduced to the twenty-five or so student organizations functioning on the Lee campus. These student organizations offer opportunity for involvement.

ber of the Greek club to pursue winning invasions; perhaps he would like to become a mem-Greek language. Whatever his ests to the fullest extent of his choose which of the religious like to join. This liberty to beinterests may be, the student or academic clubs he would and self-expression. Perhaps is free to pursue those intertunity through which the stuclub and participate in soulcome involved is an oppormember of the campus PFC a scholarly interest in the clubs, social service clubs, he would like to become a Each student is free to dent can gain self-identity abilities.

However, as is always the case, liberty requires concomitant responsibility. Although the student is free to become involved in the academic and social life of the campus community, he must also assume the responsibility of freedom. This responsibility includes the proper budgeting of his time so that his studies are paramount to all other activities, the pursuit of those

# PERSONAL LIBERTY

French L. Arrington

The gospel is the "good news" of liberation. Indeed, we are free men because Christ has set us free (Galatians 5:1). This is underscored by Paul when he reminds us that we are "called to freedom" (Galatians 5:13). But what is Christian liberty? Is it freedom from all restraint? In its purest sense, is it the power to do as we please? To be sure the words of Peter are apt: "Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of

God (1 Peter 2:16).

The liberty that Christ has given us can be used or misused, just as money can be handled or mishandled. Let us be clear that Christian liberty is not another name for erry is not another name for

code. It requires self-denial and self-discipline, but it is not a tyrannical interference with personal liberty. On the contrary, by living under the lordship of Christ, we are free—free from the slavery of sin and self-centeredness to be-

come willing servants of one

another in mutual love.

As we know, the tension is constant between what we want to do and what we ought to do. This is seen on college campuses. The temptation to dabble in the world is as real there as elsewhere, but the Christian young person would do well to remember that personal liberty in Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit and is maintained by Him. So whether we are on or off campus, in or out of class, with believers or unbelievers, we are to walk in the Spirit.

to error, he is also open to the developments of atheism and genesis in centers of learning "spirits" on campus, and they stituents. The flood of erroneous doctrine is present; but, shall know the truth, and the o be sure, there are many carry no hope for their conf the student is susceptible John 8:32). Talk about freeagnosticism, have had their ruth. And do we ever have the truth! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the movements, as well as the ife" (John 14:6), and "Ye truth shall make you free" dom

Some of the great revival

Well, the liberty to share is present; the message is given to us. But God needs a messenger.

He needs you! Why?

Because God's plan for the dissemination of the gospel is called "Tell-a-Person."
"Someone telling someone else about the new life in Jesus"—that's evangelism!



We have the liberty to influence and to share. But the

Such a walk does not provide

is to evangelize. They have

others' difficulties.

selves to Jesus Christ, our and at the same time provides an opportunity for involvement the finest education available. portunity for a fine education, a student is free to strive for Lee College provides an op-The students are free to be-

more demanding than a moral for himself—and gives us the unlimited opportunity to love decisive. It frees us from the bondage of sin and from the law of the jungle-each man Christ's gift of Himself is and to act in love. Love is

grams, and through the medium

of the arts. The Lee College

student is free to become

involved!

community social service pro-

through witnessing, through

also in reaching out to others

come involved—not only in pursuing an education, but

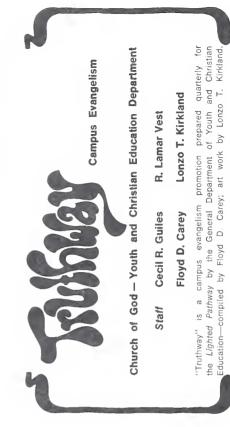
harmful habits to have dominion and ungodly passions in which the seit-seeking, numan vanity, over us. We have given ourlonger are evil desires, unman ensnares himself. No principled ambitions, and

Lord and Master.

no right to witness; in America, llegal. In Russia, they have the freedom of worship, but evangelism is considered

is real truth, then let's proclaim t. Let's allow the Spirit of the we do. Let's use it. The challenge on campus campus by sharing our faith in a living Savior. Lord to move through us on awaits us. If what we have

Photography by Ted Barrineau



# WITNESSING LIBERTY

Leonard Albert

law," declares the First Amendment, "abridging the freedom of speech. . . . ' Here, in bold "Congress shall make no of the fundamental supports of expression. The freedom to think and to talk is given and imposing terms, is one of a free society—freedom to all of us.

ield where he can share Christ The campus offers the Chriscause. Wherever thinking peoand influence others for His ple gather, significant events occur. History points out the ian student an ideal harvest nas grown up in the atmosportant religious movement ohere of a great center of fact that almost every imearning.

> GET YOUR OWN SIGN

vided an environment in which

with angels (see Hebrews saints, and keeps company creator, fellowships with the dividual communes with His ability to do things that even liberty of the Spirit, the inhe thought impossible. In the thinking, and gives him the clears the clutter from his unshackles his imagination,

selves the luxuries of being and the novelist deny themcomes a master. The sculptor with people and enjoying cerduous practice, and he beto the discipline of long, ardrances. The musician submits viewed as helps, or devices these limitations should be limits to our creativity. Yet, we are, we constantly confront they become successful. tain social interaction, and for discipline, not as hintime and space; and, because We are circumscribed by

creative forms for the artist. rhythm and rendition make shadow, color and cadence, you to be creative! Light and you find yourself, He wants you, in whatever circumstance In whatever way God uses



of God inside us. given us, we reaffirm the image the creative muscle God has the other hand, when we flex reach this or that goal. On

Dare to be creative! You have liberty in the Spirit

# AMERICAN LIBERTY

James Humbertson

pie in the sky; but, given the choice to "love it or leave it," where would you go? Where, flag-waving. It may even be tion in the world! Sure that's America is the greatest na-

a Country, Philip Nolan excult to name a substitute for "the land of the free and the on earth, would you rather be?
Take a long, hard look at and he regretted those words that he wished he would never claimed at his court-martial home of the brave," isn't it? In Edward Everett Hale's fafor the rest of his life. hear of the United States again Mother Earth. Well? It is diffi-

rights, freedoms, and liberties session. The Founding Fathers Rights, protecting our persona they established the Bill of felt so strongly about this that Americans is our greatest posthe liberty which we enjoy as It is vital to recognize that

is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17). The presence of tional product, balance of what it is. America can never "Where the Spirit of the Lord payment, or full employment be equated with gross na-God in our nation makes it The Apostle Paul wrote,

> can say or do, there are in liberties. lish our personal and spiritua that give strength to the struc-America spiritual dimensions the God-is-dead theologians Madelyn Murry O'Hair and ture of our nation and estab-In spite of all that the

spiritually-minded people and moon, there have always been Lord" (Psalm 33:12)! is the nation whose God is the said with the psalmist, "Blessec Neil Armstrong landed on the landed at Plymouth Rock until Spirit-filled people who have From the time the Pilgrims



# SPIRITUAL LIBERTY

Edward L. Williams

feast, as "The New Exhilaration." It is interesting to see Jesus' first miracle, turning the water to wine at a wedding mentary on John, describes growth. Barclay, in his comthe Christian life are joy and spiritual liberty inherent in I wo words that express the

always nas been. his face than by one who bears Tartarus in his looks."
Jesus never thought it a crime C. H. Spurgeon, a great a man who wears heaven in vinegar, and there will be spirit. There are more flies win souls; not levity and his students, "I commend to be happy. more souls led to heaven by caught with honey than with frothiness, but a genial, happy cheerfulness to all who would preacher of the past, advised

a firm foundation. A great tree into the sky because it is on growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and of that stability. life with both a firm foundaearth. The Christian life is a a deep root reaching into the its branches because it has and wonder which is in Jesus developing life in the grace 3:18). The Christian life is a Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter the basis for steadfastness as tion and an outward expression reaches out to the sky with Christ. A great building towers The Apostle Peter describes

laws of our country have beexercising responsibility. The meanings takes away from the one chooses. Neither of these it means the right to act as negative application. Negathe Lord is, there is liberty" Corinth, "Where the Spirit of Paul wrote to the church at come the basis for our liberty individual the necessity for restriction or control. Positively tively it means the absence of descriptive of spiritual liberty cepts, joy and growth, are (2 Corinthians 3:17). Liberty has a positive and Both of these Christian con-

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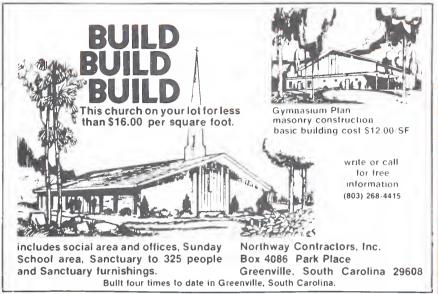


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# PRAYER OF THE YOUNG MINISTER'S

WIFE

BY LUGLENDA STIDAM

Dear Heavenly Father,

He's going to preach tonight. He has been praying that he might be asked to preach another message to Your people soon, and now it's finally happening. Thank You Father.

I'm so glad, but yet I want to cry. I don't doubt that he is called by You. But, Lord, it seems so hard to comprehend that this man that I live with, this man who plays with our two little girls, and who sits at his desk evenings studying for exams, is actually a man whom You have

chosen especially to spread Your Word to lost souls.

It's not that this is the first time, Lord, because he has preached many times before. Souls have been saved, and many who have lost contact with You have suddenly found their way back to Your throne, through the words that You have given him to say. It's just that each time I feel as if there is something within me that is crying, and laughing, and praying, and fearing—all at the same time. I can't help wondering what would happen if he were to fall flat on his face. It would hurt him so much to be rejected, because he would feel that he had let You down. He loves You, Lord; You know that he does. He wants only to do Your will.

Please help him, Lord. Anoint the words that he speaks. Let them be the words that You would have him to say. Reveal the path that he should take tonight, and then help him to follow it as You would have him to. Help him to yield fully and completely to the leading of Your precious Holy Spirit.

He is a strong man, Father; You have made him strong. I know that as long as he trusts in You, then each message he preaches will be the message that You would have him to give to Your people. I ask that You make me strong, also. For I will need a special strength to stand behind him and encourage him to do whatever it is that You lead him to do—no matter where it leads us, no matter what it is we have to sacrifice.

Watch over him, Lord. Let Your will be done in this service tonight. Be with him every second. I love him, Father. You have given him to me to love and care for. Thank You for choosing me to be this preacher's wife.

> In Jesus' name, Amen.

### PREPARING TO WITNESS

#### BY CARL RICHARDSON



Just imagine!

You are in Washington, D. C., enjoying an unforgettable weekend.

It is the peak weekend in the spectacular Cherry Blossom Festival, featuring a bicentennial parade of forty-eight bands and dozens of floats down Constitution Avenue.

But that's all tomorrow.

Right now, the time is 6:00 p.m., Friday evening, April 9, 1976. It's America's 200th anniversary. What a time to be in our nation's eapital.

You have just passed the White House. Two blocks away is the Washington Monument as you head down Constitution Avenue. Police are directing traffic for a great event. That's where you're going.

There it is!

Constitution Hall!

You're early; but already the giant television vans are here, and hundreds of people are arriving. There's a wonderful excitement in the air as God's people enter this beautiful auditorium. You join them to pass through one of the three entranees, tieket in hand.

There are four thousand seats. They are rapidly being filled. You choose a seat and begin to look around.

From the outside it doesn't appear that the auditorium eovers a eity block. It's elegantly decorated and almost breathtakingly beautiful. Then you remember that Constitution Hall is virtually alive with American history. Every American president since Coolidge and a veritable galaxy of other prominent figures have been here.

You've been here only a few minutes, and already you have seen seores of people you know. Young people's groups, Sunday school classes, youth choirs, and whole families have come to Washington for this onee-in-a-lifetime weekend! The fellowship is warm and wonderful. There's nothing like it!

You look around and see three big network eolor television eameras, mounted in strategie locations around the auditorium. You notice yet another TV eameraman with a hand-held television eamera roving throughout the auditorium eheeking the lighting levels. More than thirty technicians of various descriptions are making final preparations.

You sense the excitement rising.

You feel God's wonderful presence, because He is here too.

The telecast is about to begin and already you are glad that you eame . . . really glad that you are a part of history in the making.

You remember that last time, more than twenty million people saw our telecast, "New World Coming," and you know that your very presence here at this teleeast will be a Christian witness to multiplied millions of people.

It really feels good to be a part of something so special.





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"Where There Is Liberty" is a eolor television special eelebrating America's spiritual heritage and will be offered for prime-time viewing in late May or early June.

## HE STRENGTHENS ME



"Why don't you go sit in the playroom for a while? You might feel better."

Those were the very words she said. I moaned to myself, sliding down into the couch, forming a frown on my face. Granny always had the answers to my questions, whether about the Bible or my daily life. I could always go to Granny and leave with an understanding from her comforting words and ways that I knew could be nothing less than a gift from God. But now, I had come to her in tears that had kept me awake all night. There was no long talk like before—no stories about other Christians, no memorized verses; just, "Why don't vou go sit in the playroom for a while? You might feel better."

So there I sat upstairs in the playroom fiddling with a bundle of toys, watching my sister play with the baby and wondering why I had even bothered to come

<sup>\*</sup> Theresa Hart is pictured above on the day of her high school graduation. She is an avid worker in the Fairfield Church of God, Fairfield, California.

in the first place.

"Granny!" I had said, with a tear-stained face. "I just don't understand it. I feel so miserable. If Jesus really does love us so, why does he even allow us to go through trials? Why do Christians have to have bad days?" And I waited for another long story, from someone who had experienced forty-five years of Christian life, that I had yet to experience.

My ears burned when Granny talked, because I knew that her words were anointed by God, and that in times past she had always shown me where the light was shining just a little bit brighter than it was where I was looking. But now she had sent me upstairs with not more than a sentence. I looked up at my sister and her little tot in front of me, and my eyes began to fill with tears all over again. "Maybe Granny was too busy for me this time," I sobbed. Maybe she just sent me up here to get rid of me. But, nevertheless, I tried again, I began to fiddle with the toys again to see if there was anything here she wanted me to see. Then my sister interrupted me. "Watch him walk from here to that table over there," she said proudly, lifting the child's arms high into the air. Bored of sitting, I watched with interest. She held his hands securely as she followed behind him, guiding him toward the table, one foot in front of the other.

Once in a while she would let go of his hands completely and walk behind him. Little Tony would take three wobbly steps and then fall with a loud plop onto the floor. He would begin to cry and look around for her to pick him up, which she never failed to do.

After performing the same routine about four times, she looked up at me and said, smiling, "Well, he's getting better, soon he'll be walking with no wobble at all.'

It was those few words that began to pound in my heart with sudden divine energy. Isn't it Jesus who holds our hands securely as we walk through life, watching behind us, guiding the way? Then it must be Jesus who from time to time lets go of our hands and lets us walk on our own. I laughed aloud, and my heart felt warmed inside me. All the time He watches us; and, when we fall and look around, expecting him to pick us up again, He never fails to do so. Then I said aloud, "That's what Granny wanted me to see." When I came to her in sobs, she thought of my sister teaching Tony to walk. That's why she sent me upstairs. My insides bubbled with joy, and at that moment I forgot all my anguish and sobs. For I knew now that Iesus was just teaching me how to walk and that soon I would be walking with no wobble at all! ₩









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TO BE YOUR TOTAL SELF IN CHRIST.

# HOOK YOUR LOVE TO WHEELS

BY FLOYD D. CAREY



Sunday School Bus Evangelism Provides You With the Opportunity!

aul said it in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "There are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love" (*The New English Bible*). Love is considered greater than faith and hope because love reveals what a person really is. It is an outflow of his very nature and identifies the quality of his faith and the depth of his hope. Love is the "driving force" of life and forms the basis for values, goals, and actions.

The nature of God the Father is portrayed in His actions described in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It is clear that God placed a premium value on mankind, that He set rescue goals, and that He acted without hesitation. He hooked His love to visible, positive action.

Many young people throughout the Church of God are finding expression for their love through Sunday school bus evangelism. They are hooking their love to wheels! In truth, love has become the "driving foree" of their lives as they visit the unchurched, shepherd children, and teach the ways of Christ by example. As a result of their love-action, Sunday school attendance is increasing, and they are personally experiencing dynamic Christian joy.

A threefold joy is offered to every young person who will hook his love to wheels. There is the joy of surrender, the joy of the Spirit, and the joy of service. When one's body, mind, and will are yielded to the control of God, the Holy Spirit will empower that person for service—service that magnifies Christ and beautifies the individual with holy graces. Joy! There is joy in being a part of God's family, in taking an active part in His work, and in harvesting the fruit of love.

Does your local church have a Sunday school bus program? Talk to your pastor about this ministry and hook your love to wheels.

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS...

# THERE IS USERTY

A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

BY J. RALPH BREWER

Youth and Christian Education Director, Michigan

Study Three: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES Purpose: To show that liberty and duty, rights and responsibilities go hand in hand.

Introduction:

A man was walking down the street swinging his arms out from his chest and by accident struck a passer-by in the face. The man struck was furious and started to strike back. "Hey, isn't this a free country? Can't a fellow do his exercise on the street if he wishes?" "Yes," was the answer, "but remember, your liberty ends where my nose begins."

Much is said today about rights, but little is said about responsibility. The spirit of our time seems to be one of getting, not giving and of receiving, not sharing. Whether speaking of civil liberty or Christian liberty, we must frequently ask ourselves, "What are my responsibilities in relationship to my rights?" True liberty is not possible without a corresponding sense of responsibility both to ourselves and others, and as it relates to Christian liberty, to God Himself.

#### I. FREEDOM FROM LAW VS. FREEDOM IN LAW

Some people have mistakenly concluded that liberty means unrestricted freedom and is an official endorsement of the I'll-do-as-I-pleasewith-no-strings-attached philosophy. Can you imagine the chaos of our world if this were true? Terror would reign, our society would crumble, and civilization itself would lapse into barbarism. When one develops an ingrown, selfish attitude and ignores the needs and interests of others, the heart becomes a breeding ground for contempt, disrespect, and revenge. The ultimate result is self-assertion without regard to wound or injury to others. Thus, liberty cannot mean "freedom from law-(that is recklessness)." On the contrary, liberty means, "freedom in law."

#### II. THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE LIKE VS. THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE OUGHT

It has been well said that "Christian liberty docs not mean the right to do as we like, but rather to do as we ought." Paul put it this way, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Corinthians 6:12). In Galatians 5: 13, Paul further states, "Brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh." In this text, there is not only a steering wheel but also a brake; there is not only inspiration, but also limitation; there are not only rights, but also corresponding responsibilities.

Yes, teenage friend, Christian liberty is a part of the abundant provision of God; but it is

available only within the bounds of His Holy Word. Loving and obedient response to God's Word will lead to a rich and rewarding Christian experience.

#### III. FACING IT LIKE IT IS

Okay, so liberty involves responsibility. If that's true, what are my Christian responsibilities? According to the Word of God, every Christian has a threefold responsibility—first to God, second to his family, and third to others. (Read and study all the Scripture references below.)

#### A. Responsibility to God

- 1. To honor Him—fervently (John 5:23). This includes respect, and a proper attitude toward God, His Will, His Word, and His House.
- 2. To love Him—purely and sincerely (Matthew 22:37, 38).
- 3. To obey Him—cheerfully (John 14:15).
- 4. To serve Him—faithfully and unselfishly (Romans 12:1, 2).
- 5. To live for Him—consistently (Ephesians 4:1-3).

#### B. Responsibility to your family

- 1. Love your family—your family is a special gift from God (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8). This passage gives the characteristics of true love.
- 2. Practice the Golden Rule—it works (Matthew 7:12).
- 3. Throw away your magnifying glass (1 Peter 4:8).
- 4. Obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).

#### C. Responsibility to others

- 1. Set a good example (1 Timothy 4:12).
- 2. Share Jesus (Acts 1:8).

#### ASSIGNMENT

After carefully reading and studying this lesson (including all Scripture references), complete the following exercise:

- 1. Liberty does not mean freedom from ....., but freedom in ......
- 2. Christian liberty does not mean the right to do as we \_\_\_\_\_ but rather to do as we \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. According to the Word of God, every Christian has a responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Write out and then memorize 1 Timothy 4:12

5.	5. List several things you feel you	can and should
	do to improve your relationship	with God, your
	family, and others.	

# HOW CAN I BE A MORE BY LEONARD ALBERT

WITNESS?



his question could be posed: "How can I be a better fisherman for Christ?" In John

21:3-12 the account is given of the attempt of Peter and fellow disciples to catch fish. They toiled all the night and caught nothing. Have you ever wondered why?

First of all, Peter was out of the will of God. Jesus had earlier told him, "From henceforth thou shalt catch men" (Luke 5:10); but after witnessing Christ's death (he had thought Christ was going to set up the eternal Kingdom in his day), Peter just hung it all up! If God has spoken to you and told you to do a certain task, you must be busy doing that task or your life will be unprofitable.

Second, Peter and the other disciples went out fishing without the master Fisherman. If you desire to be a successful witness for Christ, Jesus must always be with you. Each day must be started with prayer. The opportunities to witness are born out of the sincere prayer of the believer when he says, "Lord, help me to find people to witness to today."

Third, Peter and the other disciples did not know where to go to catch fish. When Jesus said, "Cast the net on the right side of the ship" (John 21:6), then they caught more fish than they could handle. If we are willing to listen, God will speak and tell us how to become fruitful witnesses. He will tell us where to fish.

### FIRST PLACE

he first commandment thunders to youth: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The Lord must have placed this command first in the Decalogue because He knew how easy it was for young people to have other gods.

With Adam and Eve setting the example by turning from a holy God to an alluring Satan, much of youth through the centuries has bowed before other gods.

Nonetheless, the Lord makes the commandment crystal clear, giving it in the second person singular. He said, "Thou [you] shalt have no other gods before me." He does not speak just to a nation collectively, but he directs His ultimatum to us as individuals. He declares, "You cannot have gods besides Me." Our Father demands that He alone be God, or He will not be our God at all.

In this day of crass materialism, secular youth bows down before his gods of popularity, of automobiles and education, of clothes and community standing. Yet God's command stands: "You shall not have other gods!" Jesus warned, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

The Author of the first commandment does not say that we cannot own things, but He does demand that they cannot own us. One wonders why we would worship a car or position when we could worship our Maker? Why would we kneel at the shrine of materialism when we could bow down before the triune God? The loving heart of Jehovah undoubtedly asks those questions too, because He knows the folly of having other gods.

However, youth's Adamic nature is bent away from God. The devil, who has been called the god of this world, and the prince of the world, has the allegiance of most young people. Bowing before false gods actually means they are bowing before the devil and serving him. When they cease to serve and worship God, they lean toward the devil; he becomes their god.

How soul-searching is the Father's command: "You just must not have other gods"! May He enable us to stay alert concerning our allegiance. We must not allow people, possessions, nor position to become our gods. May our hearts constantly shout, "Jehova, He is God! Jehovah, He is God!" Let us bow down before Him, and Him alone.



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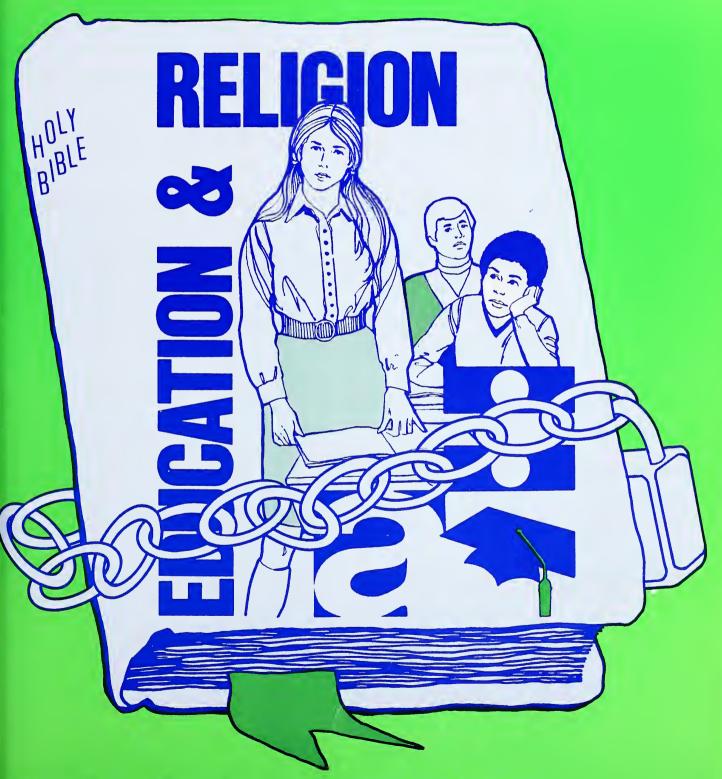
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# LOOK TO MY WORD!

- O God, give me a sign—
  With lightning and thunder,
  Electrical streams!
  Walking on water, visions, or dreams!
- O God, give me a sign—
  Spectacular happenings,
  Great or small!
  Anything, everything; I'll take them all!
- O God, give me a sign—
  Raising the dead, healing the blind,
  Turning water into wine!
  Just give me a sign!

Dear youth, look to My Word!

Not thunder or lightning
Or electrical streams.

Depend on My Word, not visions or dreams.

Dear youth, look to My Word!
So full of promises,
Great and small.
It's all written there; I've covered it all!

Dear youth, look to My Word!

A Savior was promised.

A Savior, fulfilled.

Salvation was given; blood was spilled.

You ask for a sign—
I gave you My Son.
'Tis only by His blood
Your life has been won.

Will signs and wonders set you free?
Will they bring you any closer to Me?
Your faith has come from what you heard.
Dear youth, look to My Word!

—Judy A. Lloyd, member Mt. Healthy (Ohio) Church of God

# BY THE HELP OF JUDAS!

#### BY LON WOODRUM

y friend, Danny Smith, told me of a specific temptation he had undergone, emerging victoriously. He then added: "Judas was a lot of help to me!"

"You mean Jesus, don't you?" I said. He wagged his head and as-

sured me he was talking about the man who sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver and then hanged himself!

When I protested that we didn't seem to be on the same wavelength, Danny said, "Consider Judas' opportunities. He walked with Jesus, sat in council with Him, heard His great Sermon on the Mount, joined Him! Thinking about Judas made me resolve not to follow in his steps!"

It was something to ponder. And Judas was not the only one to think about. There was, for instance, King Saul, who was anointed by a prophet to be the head of a nation. He won battles by the help of the Lord. Then, when difficulties overwhelmed him, he turned to a witch rather than to God for help. After all his triumphs he eame to his end crying, "God is departed from me" (1 Samuel 28:15)! His story might well help us to determine never to take the same road to ruin.

Also, there were Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament. Theirs was a great chance to contribute to the thrust of the young church in the world. But greed put them off the right track until they dared lie, even to the Lord. Shouldn't their case help us to check our motivations and urge us to resist the temptation which overtook them?

The Apostle Paul once made the remark, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10). One can imagine Demas joining Paul in the great spiritual adventure. He heard the apostle speak to the crowds. He saw the miracles wrought in his ministry. Think! Demas walked with the man who would have a million boys named after him and millions of sermons preached from his life and his writings. How many boys

have you ever met named Demas? Demas' defection should move us toward loyalty to our Lord!

Have you ever noticed how much there is in the Scriptures about people who failed in their high eallings? Doesn't this seem rather amiss in our time, when people are supposed to think positively rather than negatively? But apparently the Bible writers realized there are negative truths as well as positive truths. Perhaps one of the tragedies of mankind is that we have not paid enough attention to those in history who chose evil over righteousness.

In the Bible, of course, there is much more about those who didn't take the wrong road than there is about those who did. This is good, for those who didn't fall inspire us when the going gets rough. On the other hand, we can learn lessons by observing what caused others to fall.

Probably you have heard what Richard Baxter, a great Christian, said when he saw a derelict drifting to ruin: "There, but for the grace of God, go I!" Human shipwrecks sadden us. We wish they hadn't happened. But they have happened! And we should not ignore the lesson they teach.

The Apostle Paul tells us how the Israelites disobeyed the Lord and left their bones in the desert. Then he says, "These events happened as symbols to warn us not to set our desires on evil things, as they did. . . . These things . . . were recorded for our benefit as a warning" (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; New English Bible).

Faced by that scripture I can better understand what Danny Smith meant when he said, "Judas was a lot of help to me!" The call of God comes to us in varied ways and through the lives of both believers and unbelievers. May we have the wisdom to be benefitted both by man's victories and by his defeats.

t was Youth Day at church. The young people were substituting for the regular teachers in all the classes this morning. Don had the class of five-year-olds, and class was almost over.

"Now does anybody know what this commandment means: thou shalt not steal? What is stealing?" he asked.

One little boy was listening very intently. "I know," he said. "It's taking something that belongs to somebody else without even asking them.'

"Yes," Don said, "it's taking something that docsn't belong to

vou."

"But if you ask the person it belongs to, and he says it's okay, that's not stealing," said the little boy. "That's what my mother says."

The bell rang and Don was glad the class was over. What the little boy said had started him thinking about last night.

On his way to Lisa's house he turned down Rosemont Street. Lisa had always admired the beautiful roses growing in a corner bed at the car lot. In a place like that they really stood out. The place was closed but the lights illuminated the roses. On impulse Don had stopped his car and broken one long-stemmed beauty to give Lisa. The frost was going to get them before long anyway, he told himself. The owner would be glad to know that Lisa enjoyed the rose.

But the little boy's explanation of stealing nudged at him.

As soon as morning worship was over he hurried out, pausing only long enough to tell Lisa he'd pick her up for choir practice.

He didn't have much appetite for dinner. He went to his room and turned on the radio. The song "Stop and Smell the Roses" haunted him. The trouble was, he hadn't just smelled; he had taken



# JUST ONE ROSE

#### BY MILDRED S. BARTON

one with him-"without even asking," he could hear the little boy say.

"I'd feel like a fool telling the man I took a rose—just one rose," he argued with his conscience. But the thought wouldn't go away.

He couldn't stand just thinking about it. He had to do something. He got in his car and went for a ride. Soon he found himself on Rosemont Street.

The man that owned the car lot was unlocking the door of the office when he went by. He circled the block and came back. "Might as well get this over with," he told himself.

"Hey, Mister," he called as he got out. "I want to talk to you."

"I'm in a hurry," the man said. "If it's about trading cars, come back tomorrow."

"No, Sir. It's not that," Don said. "What would one big longstemmed rose cost?" he asked.

"You want to buy one of my roses?" the man asked, surprised

at Don's question.

"Well, Sir," he said, "I'd really like to pay you for one I took last night." He rushed on before he lost his nerve completely. "I was passing here on the way to see my girl friend, and on impulse I stopped and broke one and took it to her. She didn't know I got it here. I tried telling myself that the frost was going to get it soon anyway, but this morning in church I realized I had to come and make it right.'

"Thanks, Son," the man said, "for being so honest. I must say that's the kind of religion I want. Where do you go to

church?"

Don told him and invited him to church.

"Now about paying for the rose —just put the money in the church instead."

That night the man came in after service started and sat near the back. When the altar call was given he came and knelt at the altar. When he got up he was a newborn Christian.

"It's all because of a young man who goes to church here that came to make restitution for something," testified the man. "Most people wouldn't dream of making right such a small thing. I knew this young man had something I wanted."

"And I thought I would feel like a fool if I accounted for just one rose; but I guess I was a fool for Christ that time," Don said to

himself. 🔀

# Avoid Errors in Worship-Use the Bible as Your

Fred D. Killman, Director Youth and Christian Education, Oklahoma

Guide

orship indicates that to which we ascribe greatest worth. Literally it means "worthship" or "to shape the worth of." Webster defines worship as "courtesy or reverence paid to merit or worth." So worship shows what you value—what you put first. Worship involves reverence, respect, obeisance, homage, adoration, and supplication.

Man has a natural tendency to worship something or someone. Earliest historical records prove that man adored and gave honor, praise, and respect to something. His worship was often in gratitude for good done to him by something such as the sun which gave them heat and light, but sometimes he worshiped in fear. There was and is still a need to worship in the deepest part of man.

The thing to which we must pay special attention is the object of our worship. Most of us have not remained in barbarous ignorance, but there are still some who worship silver and gold, while others worship talents, power, or persons. Christians are called upon to worship God—to shape the worth of God with respect, adoration, and love toward Him.

The Bible is a continuous invitation for us to worship the true and living God. The psalmist expresses this invitation beautifully when he says, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:6). Matthew 4 relates Jesus' temptation experience in the wilderness. In verse 10 we read, "For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." This verse leaves no doubt as to the need and object of worship.

Even when we recognize God as supreme we may find ourselves in error as to worship of Him. The elements of worship are numerous. Some of the most common ones are: singing, praising, praying, preaching, giving an offering, teaching, and playing musical instruments. There is a danger, however, that we may use these elements mechanically until they become only entirely external forms or rituals. When this happens our worship is meaningless and unacceptable to God. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me" (Matthew 15:8, 9).

Yet there is a place for order in public worship. Jesus Himself instituted the Lord's Supper as an aid in remembering His sacrificial death. Because of disorder in the church at Corinth, Paul said, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Another common crror in worship is the attempt to localize God. The Jew in Christ's time felt that worship was significant only in the temple in Jerusalem, while the Samaritan felt that worship was typified by Mount Gerizim. There the Samaritans had erected a temple when the Jews would not permit them to worship in Ierusalem. So when the Samaritan woman met Jesus, she asked, "Where is God?" and Jesus replied, "Nowhere particular-everywhere." He is not limited to geographical or physical conditions. He is spirit in nature. So Jesus told the woman that God is to be worshiped "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Perhaps the most common error in worship among Pentecostal youth is the lack of reverence for the place of worship and worship itself. Reading Sunday school papers during the worship service, chewing gum, writing notes, drawing pictures, doing homework, courting, and whispering to friends are out of place when we gather to worship God.

The maintenance of worship is the duty of every Christian. It is vain to expect the fire to continue burning unless we attend to it. Someone has said, "Mere individualism is abuse of liberty. and ends in irreligious disorder and extinction of the fire in God's house. All must help to maintain the fire."

Although the Christian may be aided in his worship by various devices, he must see these only as helps, for actual worship comes from within and is directed toward God.

There is a way to avoid errors in worship. When you have a problem, there are three ways to get an answer: (1) Ask a friend. (2) Guess. (3) Go to an authoritative source. The last solution is always best, and the Bible is the most authoritative source.

Basically, the biblical theology of worship is: "God has done something for us and we respond." This should give shape and form to all we do in church and should not cease at noon on Sunday. It should be our basic strategy in daily living. All our life should become a matter of listening to God speak and responding with respect and love. Following are two suggestions to help us fulfill this theology of worship:

Worship must be a representation of our beliefs. For many people today, worship is an option. They go to church when there is nothing more exciting to do. Others come or stay away because of some subjective standard, asking, "Will I get anything out of it?"



Some come to worship because they believe. No one who has sincerely believed has ever failed to bring his beliefs to action. This kind of worship points, as Bonhoeffer says, to "the place at which God and man become one. It lies in Jesus Christ." Worship fails if it does not fire our desire to bccome more Christlike and does not show other people why they should. This worship is both God-centered and man-concerned and is powerful enough to shape lives.

Worship must be a celebration of what we have realized through our beliefs. To celebrate is "to observe a notable occasion with festivities." With the early church, every act of worship was a celebration. They rejoiced over the benefits that came to them from the life, death, and resurrection of Iesus Christ. Their worship was a reliving of these events, and their lives testified to their benefits. Each individual poured into the celebration the joyful note, "This is what Christ means to me. This is what He has done for me." Listen to the New Testament echo the celebration: "Then

were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (John 20: 20). "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple . . . Praising God" (Acts 2:46, 47). "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Iesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope" (1 Peter 1:3). "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever" (Revelation 7:12). This is the joy of fulfillment. (It is the celebration of life lost in Someone else's destiny so that it may be found joyfully again.)

Prepare yourself for worship; relax in His presence; concentrate your mind and heart on God alone while worshiping; come expecting a blessing; participate in the worship; "Come before his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2). And be flexible -don't tell God how to bless you; be open, drinking in every word, song, praise, prayer, and

When we learn to worship better, we will live better.

## THE RAPTURE

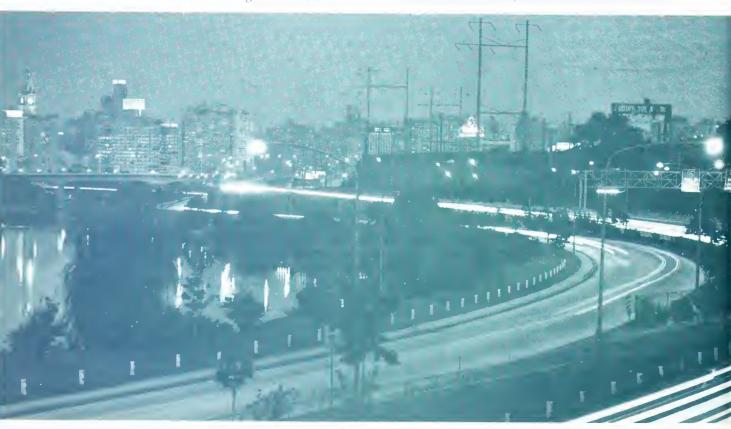
It may be on this very day
At the turning of a lane,
Where I stand to watch a skylark soar
From out the swelling grain,
The trump of God shall thrill me
With its call so loud and clear,
And I'm called away to meet Him
Whom most of all, I hold dear.

It may be on this very day
As I tread the busy street,
Striving to endure life's stress and strain,
Its every call to meet,
That through the roar of traffic
A trumpet silvery clear
Shall stir my startled senses
And proclaim that He is here.

It may be in the very hour As I lie in dreamless sleep, God's gift to many a sorrowing heart With no more tears to weep, That a call shall break my slumber And a voice sound in my ear: "Rise up, My child, and come away Behold! The Bridegroom's here. It will be in His heaven
That I fall on bended knee
When the kingly voice, long hoped for,
Has at last summoned me,
And the fellowship of this life
That in past had seemed so sweet
Will prove nothing but the shadow
Of our meeting 'round His feet.

—James O. Henry

Editor's note: James O. Henry is on Death Row in a penitentiary in Florida. An effective soulwinner among his fellow inmates, he is fully committed to Christ, and is determined to serve Him until death, or until the Rapture takes place. He prepared this poem after reading What About Tomorrow?, a book written by the editor.





A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

By J. Ralph Brewer

Youth and Christian Education Director, Michigan

**Study Four:** "THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"

**Purpose:** To show that the Holy Spirit personally ministers to the needs of the Christian

#### Introduction:

In previous studies, we have discovered that Christian living is not (as some people believe) a "ball and chain" experience, but an exciting adventure in the liberties God has provided. In this study we will focus upon the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit and the various ways He helps us become a more perfect specimen of God's redeeming work. (Read and study all Seripture references.)

#### I. THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER

(The word *Comforter* means "one who is ealled to your side," as a client ealls a lawyer.)

- A. He consoles in the sorrows of life (John 14:1-3).
- B. He conquers in the trials of life (1 John 4:4).
- C. He intercedes to God for us (Romans 8:26).

The comfort of the Spirit is an ever-present source of strength, refreshment, and rest.

He travels with us through the valleys as well as over the mountains. He undergirds, sustains, and serves as a fortress against the enemy of our soul. This aspect of the Holy Spirit's personal ministry to the Christian is both rich and satisfying.

#### II. THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR TEACHER

- A. He communicates truth (John 16:13).
- B. He communicates Christ (John 16:14). When we say that the Holy Spirit is our teacher, it does not mean that we are excused from applying ourselves to the study of God's Word (see 2 Timothy 2:15). We must continually study and "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meckness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). The Holy Spirit helps in the understanding of God's Word, in refreshing the mind, and in recalling the things which have been

#### III. THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR GUIDE

learned.

- A. He directs the details of everyday life (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16, 25).
- B. He leads in service for God (Acts 8:27-29; 16:6, 7; 13:2-4).

At life's crossroads the Holy Spirit is there to guide you (see John 16:13). Life's decisions are momentous, and God's help is needed to make the right choices. The Holy Spirit will guide you if you are willing to follow. How can you be sure that the Spirit is leading you? His leadership will always be in accordance with the written Word. The Seriptures were written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and He will never contradict that which He has inspired.

#### **Assignment**

After earefully reading and studying all the Scripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise:

1. List three ways the Holy Spirit ministers to the Christian.

2. The Holy Spirit helps in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word, in \_\_\_\_\_\_ the mind, and in \_\_\_\_\_ the things which have been learned.

3. Write out and memorize 2 Timothy 2:15.

4. Comforter means

5. Name an occasion when the Holy Spirit ministered to a specific need in your life.

### A TEEN'S BICENTENNIAL PRAYER



#### BY FLOYD D. CAREY

Lord, I thank You today for the bold faith of the Founding Fathers of America and for their belief in Your holy Word. It guided them in establishing a democratic form of government and in setting forth a way of life based on truth, freedom, and justice.

Give me the courage to follow their example. Let me exercise bold faith to stand up for personal rights and grace to embrace the principles of Your Word in self-development and in relating to my fellowman.

Help mc to get involved spiritually, socially, and emotionally in helping to shape the future of America. Let mc reflect a positive attitude of Christian conviction, true respect for law and order, and sincere love-action toward those in need.

Show me how to demonstrate the liberty that Your Spirit gives in my daily life and help me to convey it by my words, my works, and my worship as an American citizen.

Arouse in me a fervent desire to pray for the leadership of my country, city, and community—and to pray that they will seek You and be conscious of their responsibilities to others in projecting plans, managing finances, and making decisions.

Develop my insight and appreciation for the benefits of freedom, both as an American citizen and as a Christian citizen. Let me keep my ears, eyes, and heart attuned to the "free way" of liberty and not become bound by stubbornness, selfishness, and shortsightedness.

Teach me to represent You as a God who is sympathetically concerned about the current needs, the quality of character, and the spiritual direction of America and to show that You are ready to give comfort, security, blessings, and counsel.

Remind me to maintain daily fellowship with You and to draw strength from Your Word, personal security in prayer, and joy through a life of active partnership with You.

Then, Lord, give me faith to say no to all tempting offers that would interfere with my Christian commitment, distort my vision of freedom, or weaken my privileges as an American citizen.

Thank You, Lord.



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State ☐ Check if you have a Trade-in! "Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot. . . . And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them" (Luke 22:3, 4).

The following imaginary conversation is based on this Scripture text.

Judas led them to Christ, who was praying in Gethsemane. He walked up to Jesus saying, "Hail, Master!" and kissed Him. Then the chief priests laid hands on Him and took Him away.

Later on, when Jesus was being slapped and scorned, Judas came to himself and realized what he had done. He went to the chief priests and elders. "I'm giving back your silver. I have sinned. I have betrayed the innocent blood," he told them.

"What is that to us? see thou to that," they replied. (See Matthew 27:4.)

Judas threw down the silver in horror and left the Temple. Later he hanged himself, and Jesus was crucified. to come on to a party with us tonight. You'll meet all the kids and have a great time. How about it?"

"Well, thanks, but the church down here is having a program tonight and—"

"Oh, man, church can hold; this can't. You're not gonna turn down this for church, are you? Just think—chicks, music, food; you name it, we got it. It's all good clean fun and you'll make lots of friends and get in on the in crowd."

"Well, I guess it won't hurt anything if I come."

Later on, at the party . . .

"Hey, Jeff, having fun?"

"Yeah, I sure am. Lots of nice kids around here."

# BETRAYAL

### BY AURORE' G'ARDONEAU

hat is your name?"
"Judas Iscariot."
"You know this man
Jesus, who claims to
be the Son of God?"
"Yes, I know Him well."

"Will you show us where He is? We want to arrest Him when He is alone, so as not to cause a riot. Can you lead us to Him?"

"Yes. How much will you pay me?"

"Fifteen pieces of silver."

"It is not enough."

"We will give you thirty pieces of silver, then."

"I will take you to Him now. The one I kiss, that will be your Jesus Christ." Judas is not the only person who has turned his back on Christ. Some youths today betray Him.

"Hey, Mike, let's ask that new guy if he wants to come to that wild party you're throwing."

"No, man, are you crazy? That dude's a real religious freak! He'd never come."

"Sure he will. I know how easy them so-called Jesus people are to persuade. You just have to handle 'em right. Besides, man, he'll be an easy setup."

"Hi, there. What's your name, kid?"

"Hello. Jeff Davis."

"Well, Jeff, I'm Chad Wiggens and this is Mike Reed. You're new here, aren't you?"

"Yeah, just moved here this week. Nice place, but I don't really know anyone here."

"Hey, we were just thinking about that, and I'd like for you "Sure. Listen, everyone's trying this. Want some?"

"No. Chad, you said it was a good, clean party—but not this—"

"Hey, man, it is; it is! This stuff don't hurt nobody. Here, take a puff. Come on."

"No!"

"Don't be a square, man, take some and be one of us. If you don't, how do you expect to be one of us? Look, it's lonely being an outsider; so here."

"I guess so. One puff won't hurt."

Later on, after Jeff had smoked the pot, the rest laughed at him.

"Look at him—out cold. Did you tell me he was a Jesus freak? Some Jesus freak, man!"

When Jeff came to himself, he realized what he had done. He had ruined a great chance to witness for Jesus. He too had betrayed Christ.

#### NATIONAL YOUTH EMPHASIS PHASE 3 INFORMATION GUIDE

### Statewide Freedom Rallies

#### ALABAMA

The Alabama Freedom Rally will be conducted at the Church of God state campground, Bessemer Super Highway, Birmingham, on Saturday, May 15. State Teen Talent competition will be the special feature of the day. Other youth involvements built around the theme "A Call to Freedom" will be included in the Freedom Rally activities. —Wayne Taylor, State Director

#### ALASKA

Two Freedom Rallies will be conducted in Alaska to accommodate the youth of our state. The North Central Freedom Rally will be eonducted May 7 and 8 at the East Park Church in Anchorage. The Southeast Freedom Rally will be held May 15 at the Ketchikan Church. Activities at these rallies will include Teen Talent competition, "A Call to Freedom" tract crusade, special musie, and a challenge in sermon. Some of our youth will have to travel hundreds of miles to attend these rallies, and

we are expecting great "freedom in the Spirit" happenings.—Larry Rice, State Director

#### ARIZONA

The 44th Street Church of God in Phoenix will host the Arizona Freedom Rally on May 15. The theme "What Freedom Means to Me" will be one of the special features of the day. The Saint Andrew Singers will present a Bicentennial musical, and there will be a freedom march by our youth. Teen Talent competition will also take place at the Freedom Rally. We are expecting this to be one of the most enjoyable events of the year.—Norman Stallings, State Director

#### ARKANSAS

The Freedom Rally in Arkansas will be a day for juniors and teens combined. The date will be May 1, and the location will be the Church of God Youth Camp at Benton. For the juniors there will be special events and recreational activities. The teens will engage in Teen Talent and special involvement activities.—S. Lane Sargent, State Director

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

The Rio Linda Church of God in Sacramento will host our Freedom Rally on April 23 and 24. Teen Talent competition will be conducted, along with other exciting events. Olympic type sports competition and a basketball game with the West Coast Bible College basketball varsity will highlight the recreational activities. A Mr. and Miss Northern California-Nevada Pageant will also be sponsored. The rally will conclude with the announcing of Teen Talent winners, sports competition winners, and the crowning of Mr. and Miss Northern California-Nevada. -Samuel D. Adkerson, State Director

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Four thousand delegates, many of whom will be young people, are expected to attend Church of God Night at Knott's Berry Farm. The event, emphasizing freedom, will convene on Friday night, April 30, 1976. Delegates will wear early settler attire and will sing patriotic and spiritual songs. The Reverend J. H. Ingram—an esteemed, retired missionary—will conduct an old-

timer's worship service and will be supported by other retired ministers. This exciting Bicentennial celebration promises to be a historic event for us.—Harmon J. Roberts, State Director

#### COLORADO-WYOMING

Teenagers from Colorado and Wyoming will meet high in the Rockies at the beautiful Holiday Inn at Lake Dillon, Colorado, on April 23 and 24, 1976, for a Teen Freedom Retreat. Featured guests will be the Reverend Donald L. Hughes, state director of Montana, and his family, who are known for their anointed singing and ministry. Activities will include a Freedom Festival, Teen Talent competition, and a Liberty Banquet that will conclude with a challenging message by Brother Hughes.—C. Waymon Miller, State Director

#### FLORIDA

On May 21 through 23 a statewide Freedom Rally and Pioneers for Christ Action Rally will be conducted in Orlando for the youth of Florida. High school and college youths, ages 15 through 22, will participate in the Pioneers for Christ Action Rally and will study techniques on how to share Christ. Teen Talent winners in the music division will be featured, along with other special groups and speakers in the Freedom Rally. All of the activities will support the theme "A Call to Freedom." —Robert Lee Cary, State Director

#### FLORIDA (Jacksonville)

Our state Freedom Rally will be held in the Church of God Assembly Auditorium in Jacksonville on Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1. The events will include a Bicentennial salute to our nation, a freedom march, Teen Talent finals, a late-night musical program, and a youth afterglow service. There will also be special speakers.—Quan L. Miller, Director

#### **GEORGIA**

Georgia's Freedom Rally will convene May 15, 1976, at the Tifton, Georgia, Campground. An active, funfilled day is planned with sports, games, and a special puppets program. The "Children of Light" trio will be our special guests. Featured speakers will in-

clude the State Youth and Christian Education Director and the State Youth Board. "Maintaining Our Assumed Freedoms" will be the key emphasis for this great Freedom Rally.—Robert P. Herrin, State Director

#### HAWAII

"A Call to Freedom" will be given special emphasis at the Hawaiian Freedom Rally, which will be conducted May 8 at the Memorial Christian Center in Aiea and the Pearl Harbor State Park. Teen Talent competition and a Bible gaiz will be sponsored in the morning. In the afternoon the film "In God We Trust" will be shown. It depicts our country's heritage and shows the influence of Christianity. Special patriotic music will also be featured.-Mike Chapman, State Director

#### ILLINOIS

Three gigantic Freedom Rallies are planned for Illinois: the Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, rally will be held in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on March 27; the Southern Illinois rally will be held in West Frankfort on May 8; and Southwestern Illinois rally will be held in Collinsville on May 22. The features will include Teen Talent competition, a youth message, a puppet program, recreation, and training sessions for adults. Our youths are rallying to the "A Call for Freedom" program, and we are expeeting great Freedom Rallies.—Junus C. Fulbright, State Director

#### INDIANA

Action and involvement will highlight Indiana statewide Freedom Rally, which is scheduled for April 24, 1976. The rally will begin in Lafayette at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Music entries and art displays of the state Teen Talent program will be featured throughout the day. A special attraction at the rally will be the Freedom Luncheon. The Honorable Otis R. Bowen, M.D., governor of Indiana, has been invited to be the guest speaker. —Raymond Culpepper, State Director

#### **IOWA**

Iowa Church of God young people will enjoy their state Freedom Rally during the annual camp meeting. Events will get underway on Friday evening,

June 25, at approximately 10:00 p.m. with a camp meeting afterglow service featuring a film appropriate to the theme. On Saturday, June 26, youth will be actively involved in the services through devotions, special music, etc. Saturday evening scholarships to youth camp will be awarded to winners in the state Bible quiz and to the Home for Children coupon king and queen. —James E. Cossey, State Director

#### KANSAS

The Kansas Freedom Rally will begin with a "Youth Sing" on Friday evening, May 21. The "Youth Sing" will feature the Shekinahs from Oklahoma, the Righteous Sound from Kansas City, and the Redemption Singers from Wichita. On Saturday morning the program will spotlight Teen Talent competition. Following this, Fred Killman, state director of Oklahoma, will challenge our vouth to develop their full potentials in sermon. Saturday afternoon our youth will go to Joyland Park for a time of fun and recreation.—Donnie Smith, State Director

#### KENTUCKY

The Freedom Rally for Kentueky will be held May 1, 1976. The program will include special activities and music built around the theme "A Call to Freedom." -Bill Wooten, State Director

#### LOUISIANA

Louisiana's Freedom Rally will also be a retreat. Our youth will gather at the Assembly of God eampground on Friday night, April 30, for a time of togetherness and freedom celebration. On Saturday, May 1, Tecn Talent competition will be conducted in the Alexandria Church of God. The theme "A Call to Freedom" will be emphasized, and the winning Spiritual Declaration of Independence will be read. We will also have special music and a guest speaker. -Gary Tygart, State Director









ALABAMA Wayne Taylor



Larry Rice



FLORIDA Robert Lee Cary



FLORIDA (Jacksonville) Quan L. Miller



IOWA James E. Cossey



KANSAS Donnie Smith



MICHIGAN J. Ralph Brewer



MINNESOTA Alan J. Walker



NEW JERSEY John O. McCloud



NORTH CAROLINA Walter Barwick



Travis Porter



VIRGINIA H. Lynn Stone



ARKANSAS S. Lane Sargent



N. CALIFORNIA-NEVADA Samuel D. Adkerson

MARYLAND-DELAWARE-D.C.

The theme "A Call to Freedom" holds a special impact for the youth in our

states because they live in the shadow

of the nation's Capitol. Three rallies in

key locations will be conducted for our

youth on May 15, May 22, and June

5. The activities will vary, with empha-

sis on fellowship, worship, and Teen

Talent competition.—William A. Reid.

On Friday night, May 28, teenagers

from across the State of Michigan will converge on our state campground near

Fenton, Michigan, to participate in an

exciting Freedom Rally. The Freedom

Rally, emphasizing the patriotic theme

"A Call to Freedom," will be held in

conjunction with our Youth-a-Rama set

for May 28 and 29. Special music and

singing, plus other enjoyable features,

will highlight this event. The teenagers

will stay overnight at the campground,

with a fun-packed program to follow on

Saturday.—I. Ralph Brewer, State Di-

Minneapolis will be the location of

our statewide Freedom Rally. On Friday, April 30, youth will be involved in "A

Call to Freedom" program that will al-

low for expression, fellowship, inspira-

tion, and worship.—Alan J. Walker,

State Director

**MICHIGAN** 

rector

MINNESOTA

State Director



ILLINOIS Junus C. Fulbright



INDIANA Raymond Culpepper



LOUISIANA



MD-DE-D.C. William A. Reid



MISSOURI E. L. Cushman

SOUTHERN OHIO Jerry L. Millwood

WASHINGTON

A. Roland Pendley



NEBRASKA Gary L. Baugh



OREGON Ron O. Lewis





EASTERN CANADA



IDAHO-UTAH



S. NEW ENGLAND Manning Thornton

#### MISSISSIPPI

The young people in the State of Mississippi will experience a gigantic Freedom Rally in the spring of 1976. The Freedom Rally will be held on Saturday, May 15, at the state campground in Jackson. The featured speaker will be onc of the most respected and loved former youth directors of Mississippi, the Reverend Paul Henson. The activities will include music, a look into the past, and some exciting involvement events, all centered around the theme "A Call to Freedom."-Billy O'Neal, State Director

#### **MISSOURI**

It's going to take place on the Church of God campground in Leadwood on May 21 and 22-a big Freedom Retreat! At 7:00 p.m. on Friday and at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday exciting rallies will be conducted. In between these rallies activities galore will be sponsoredorganized recreation, car racing, music, Teen Talent competition, meals, and fellowship.—E. L. Cushman, State Director

#### NEBRASKA

The Freedom Rally in Nebraska will be held on April 24 in Grand Island. The activities will begin at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer. A guided tour of the museum, which will last one hour and forty-five minutes, will inform our youth about the early development of our country and inspire them to exhibit appreciation of it. After lunch,



S. CALIFORNIA-NEVADA Harmon J. Roberts

Church of God Evangels will be distributed in designated areas of the city as a means of sounding forth "A Call to Freedom." Private swimming, one hour for boys and one hour for girls, will be offered at the YMCA. At 5:30 there will be a great Freedom Rally featuring youth involvement and dedication.

—Gary L. Baugh, State Director

#### NEW JFRSEY

On May 1, 1976, New Jersey will sponsor a statewide Freedom Rally at Bordentown. A film entitled "Liberty" will be featured, plus special singing, youth participation, guest speakers, a picnic lunch, and recreational activities. Also, on May 23 we will have five district Freedom Rallies with the local and district youth directors in charge. Each district program will include special singing, guest speakers, youth activities, etc. At these rallies we will emphasize "A Call to Freedom" as it relates to youth, the church, and our country. —John O. McCloud, State Director

#### NEW MEXICO

Freedom Rallies in New Mexico will be sponsored on May 8 at Carlsbad and on May 22 at Albuquerque. A puppet program, Teen Talent competition, outdoor activities, and a youth message are planned for the day. "A Call to Freedom" through spiritual worship will be emphasized during these rallies.—David L. Holdman, State Director

#### NEW YORK CITY

May 22 is the date scheduled for the New York City metropolitan area Freedom Rally. The activities of the day will begin with a patriotic march that will end at our headquarters church in Brooklyn. A brief history of our nation and a talk by a representative of the U.S. Army will highlight the day's emphasis. The activities will end with a fellowship hour.—Charles Marcelle, Director

#### NORTH CAROLINA

The youth of North Carolina will observe their Freedom Rally on May 15, 1976. It will be held at the Kannapolis, Elm Street Church of God and the Kannapolis City Park. Activities will include state Teen Talent finals, a picnie lunch, a softball game, a freedom march, and a youth rally. Emphasis will be on Teen

Talent, teen involvement, and spiritual freedom.—Walter Barwick, State Director

#### NORTHERN OHIO

Youth Freedom Rallies emphasizing Pentecostal freedom will be conducted throughout Northern Ohio from May 14 through 23. The Churchmen from Alabama will provide special music. The rallies will emphasize the theme, "A Call to Freedom." Our youth will be involved in a worship experience that will let them know that there is freedom in the Spirit.—Donald M. Walker, State Director

#### SOUTHERN OHIO

The Princeton Pike Church in Hamilton will be the site for our statewide Freedom Rally on May 22. The theme "A Call to Freedom" will be highlighted throughout the day. The activities will include Tecn Talent competition, youth fellowship, and youth involvement.

—Jerry L. Millwood, State Director

#### **OREGON**

May 8, at Springfield will be a historical day for the youth of Oregon. On this day a statewide Freedom Rally will be conducted and "A Call to Freedom" will be sounded. The special features will include Teen Talent competition, recreation, and other exciting activities.—Ron O. Lewis, State Director

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

Youth from South Carolina will congregate at Dillon, South Carolina, on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. for a state Freedom Rally which will continue through May 15 at 4:00 p.m. The special features of this rally will be Teen Talent participation, involvement activities, and scrmon challenges by the State Youth Board. The theme "Freedom in Christ Through Using Our Talent" will be emphasized. The beautiful and spacious new sanctuary of the Dillon Church of God will accommodate approximately one thousand people, and we are expecting the enthusiasm and interest in this big statewide Freedom Rally to be so great that the lovely sanctuary will be overflowing with excited teenagers. The youth of South Carolina are proud to be a part of the National Youth Emphasis for '76, "A Call to Freedom."—Lawrence Leonhardt, State Director

#### **TENNESSEE**

In celebration of our nation's Bicentennial, Tennessee will sponsor three gigantic regional Freedom Rallies: Western Tennessee, Memphis (Whitten Heights), April 26, 1976; Middle Tennessee, Nashville (Broadmoor), April 29, 1976; and Eastern Tennessee, Knoxville (Central), April 30, 1976. The rallies will begin at 7:15 p.m. Carl Richardson has been selected as guest speaker, and the Lee Collegians will provide a special patriotic music package for the youth-centered meetings. Many other special activities have been planned around the theme "A Call to Freedom."—W. A. Davis, State Director

#### **TEXAS**

The Hurst Church of God will host the Texas Freedom Rally on May 15, 1976. The featured activities will include Teen Talent competition, a puppet program, and recreation. A program entitled "A Call to Freedom" will call youth to worship and will emphasize the theme "Your Life, Your Loyalty, Your Liberty."—Travis Porter, State Director

#### VIRGINIA

The Virginia Youth Department is sponsoring five regional Freedom Rallies simultaneously on May 1. Morning activities will include Teen Talent regional competition. After a break for lunch and some "fun activities," the day will be climaxed by a special Freedom Rally featuring a special youth speaker. One of the highlights of this service will be the reporting of each church of the Youth World Evangelism Appeal (YWEA) offerings raised during the month of April through Virginia's YWEA Festival Supper Program. The offerings will be dedicated to the cause of spreading freedom throughout the world by the means of youth missions.—H. Lynn Stone, State Director

#### WASHINGTON

Colonial attire and a program about our religious heritage—these are some of the exciting things that will take place on May 8 at the Nob Hill Church in Yakima. This will be the site for our statewide Freedom Rally. There will be a special Bicentennial emphasis, and the program will also include Teen Talent competition.—A. Roland Pendley, State Director

#### WISCONSIN

Our Freedom Rally will be conducted at the Kenosha Church of God on March 27. We will join the youth of Illinois in obscrving this special day and in responding to the National Youth Emphasis program "A Call to Freedom." While the youth enjoy a basketball game between the two states and other events, the adults will engage in a training program. Junus Fulbright, state director of Illinois, will be the featured speaker.—Bob Rodgers, State Director

#### EASTERN CANADA

Our Freedom Rally in Canada, which naturally will have a different emphasis than ones held in the United States, will focus on the 1975 National Youth Emphasis theme "Walking in the Spirit." The rally will be conducted on May 17 at the Toronto, Ontario, Church of God. Activities will include Teen Talent competition in music and art, the Junior Talent program, a Bible quiz, and a Sword drill. In the afternoon the film "Gospel Road" will be shown and a giant youth rally will be conducted.—Dean Hackett, Director

#### IDAHO-UTAH

The Freedom Rallies for Idaho and Utah will convene in Mountain Home, May 1, for our southern part of the state, and in Coeur d'Alene, June 5, for the churches in the North. Activities at the rallies will include a youth message, Teen Talent, and recreational activities, including basketball, volleyball, softball, etc. We are looking forward to great days for the youth.—Ken R. Boyd, State Director

#### SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

The Southern New England State Freedom Rally will be held Saturday, May 22, 1976, at the Groton, Connecticut, Church of God. The day will begin with Teen Talent competition at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by an afternoon rally involving several speakers on youth concerns and also a time of recreation on the ball field. The Reverend John Lemons, state overseer of New York, will be the guest speaker for the evening rally.—Manning Thornton, State Director

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RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR FAITH IN THE PUBLIC

BY J. W. JEPSON

SCHOOLS

hen ten-year-old Terry McCollum walked out of his public school class-room, excused from the religious classes being conducted there, he could not have imagined the historical forces in motion around him. And neither Terry nor those who were accelerating those forces could know what the end would be. They still do not.

But before we go on with Terry's story, let's reach back, pick up some facts, and trace the lines of the historical perspective.

During the colonial period of our national history, education varied according to the broad regions of the country. In the aristocratic South education was a family matter. In the Middle Atlantic colonies it was largely parochial.

In New England, however, education became a public concern. Boston opened the first public school in 1635. Seven years later (1642) Massachusetts passed the first compulsory education law. But though early

New England education was public, it maintained strong religious ties and values.

So the new American nation emerged from the American Revolution with roots deeply planted in rich colonial soil. It had values, philosophies, and institutions that were well-established and growing. Freedom and equality were prominent among these. Jefferson was making influential statements about separation of Church and State and was advocating publicly supported education.

National support for public cducation came early. The Northwest Ordinance (1787) provided for public school revenues. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution recognized the educational responsibilities of the States.

In 1837 Horace Mann became Secretary of the Massachusetts State Education Board and worked for a nonsectarian school system (but not necessarily a secularized one).

But support for a secularized public school system grew in this country, and by 1875 the idea was permanently rooted in the national mind.

Meanwhile, sectarian struggles continued.

In 1843 Roman Catholic bishop Francis Kenrick petitioned the Philadelphia School Board to allow Catholic children to use the Catholic version whenever Bible reading was required in school. A public outcry was raised that Catholics were trying to remove the Bible from the schools. Riots erupted. Catholic property suffered and some people were shot.

About 1859 approximately one hundred Catholic children were expelled from Boston schools for refusing to read or recite from the Protestant Bible. Others were beaten by teachers and the punishment was upheld

in court (Commonwealth vs. Cooke, 1859).

In Spiller vs. The Inhabitants of Woburn (1866) the Massachusetts Supreme Court upheld the right of the school to expel a girl for refusing to bow her head for morning prayer.

A Catholic-Protestant "Bible War" started in Cincinnati in 1842. When the Board of Education issued a resolution ending Bible reading in the public schools, the matter went to court. The Board's resolution was nullified. But in 1872 the State Supreme Court upheld the Board of Education vs. Minor, 1872).

As the nation emerged into the twentieth century, the trend toward toleration continued.

Then, in 1947, the whole matter of religion in the public schools entered an era of crisis. The United States Supreme Court was asked to rule in the first of a series of cases that finally settled some basic issues.

In Everson vs. Board of Education (1947) the Supreme Court ruled that the use of public funds to transport children to parochial schools is constitutional because it protects the physical safety of the children. But the Supreme Court took the occasion to define its philosophy on the broader issues involved.

A year later the Supreme Court expressed itself in *McCollum vs. Board of Education* (1948). And this brings us back to Terry.

The question was the releasedtime program, consisting of weekly religious instruction during schooltime, within the school curriculum, and on school premises.

To make the enrollment 100 percent Terry was willing to join the class (sponsored by the Champaign, Illinois, Council on Religious Education). His mother, an atheist, refused to let him join.

Terry was excused from the classes. But what to do with him while the class was in session became embarrassing to all concerned, including Terry.

In January of 1947 the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that neither Terry's nor Mrs. McCollum's rights had been infringed. But by the time the United States Supreme Court took the case in December, the *Everson* decision had been handed down. The Supreme Court had established its direction.

The high court ruled that the released-time program at Champaign violated the First Amendment.

Reaction varied. Many school administrators virtually ignored the decision. But some viewed the Supreme Court's dictum as a mandate and in some cases went so far as to remove all Bibles from their school libraries. Four years of confusion followed the *McCollum* decision.

Again, in 1952, the United States Supreme Court was asked to rule in a released-time dispute. But this time the religious classes were being conducted off the school premiscs. In a 6-to-3 decision the Supreme Court declared the practice to be constitutional (*Zorach vs. Clauson*, 1952).

Then came *Engle vs. Vitale*, (1962). The issue was the "Regents' Prayer," composed by the New York State Board of Education. The real question, however, was the status of schoolsponsored prayers in the public school.

When the Supreme Court ruled 6-to-1 that the prayer was unconstitutional, reaction was intense. The public furor exceeded the outcry that followed the *McCollum* case.

The following year the Supreme Court administered the coup de grace. This time it was Bible reading and the cases were Abiugton School District vs. Schempp and Murray vs. Curlett. The Supreme Court considered the cases together and handed down one decision on June 14, 1963.

The Schempp-Murray decision condemned Bible reading as a school-sponsored activity. Surprisingly, public reaction was mild. The Becker Amendment in Congress (designed to declare that the First Amendment does not forbid Bible reading in the public schools) received only 160 votes, 58 short of the 218 needed to pass.

In 1964 the United States Supreme Court reversed a decision of the Florida State Supreme Court that upheld Bible reading in the public schools, thus reaffirming its *Schempp-Murray* decision.

During 1965 the high court refused to review a New York State Supreme Court decision upholding the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance in the schools. And in December of the same year it ruled that the New York school authorities could ban voluntary recitation of prayers in the schools even if such prayers are requested by the pupils.

Other matters of religion relative to the public schools have been debated from time to time and some lower court decisions have been rendered on these.

Most states forbid nuns to wear religious garb while teaching in public schools. Gideons still make copies of the New Testament available to public schoolchildren in most places. And Christmas carols are still sung.

Religious courses in state colleges and universities are accepted on the premise that college students have received their basic religious training in the church and at home, have developed personal convictions, and are prepared to study religion objectively.

In themselves, the praetiees abolished by the landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court were of little consequence. Removing token prayers and seattered smatterings of Bible reading from the public schools did not greatly undermine the Judeo-Christian values and presuppositions fundamental to our culture and hence our schools. Probably, some who objected the most never had family Bible reading and prayer in the home.

But some other consequences have been far greater. Although the Supreme Court contended in the *Schempp-Murray* decision that its dictum did not result in a de facto establishment of secularism, such has been the result.

Education cannot take place in a cosmological vaeuum. So on November 12, 1968, the high court struck down state laws that prohibited the teaching of evolution in the public schools, basing its decision on freedom of religion. That means, then, that only one cosmogony, only one general explanation of the origin of things is to be allowed in the public schools. Its monopoly is not to be denied. All values must be compatible with it, perhaps even derived from it.

The secular humanism that has been the inevitable result has produced widespread frustration, especially where there has been an insistence upon academic freedom without a balancing sense of academic responsibility. This frustration is so deep on matters of such fundamental concern that when it does break out in protests, it can do so with explosive force. Ugliness and violence result. The recent textbook controversies are an example.

Christians have a much better option. God is still in heaven,

and we have recourse to Him in believing prayer. We can demonstrate by holy living, love, and patience that the Christian faith is genuine and far superior to empty secularism.

Being materialistic and amoral, evolutionary faith has no valid basis for a genuine system of values, no real premise for its humanistic hope. But Christian faith does. Our values are based on the fact that Almighty God created man in His own image. And we have a secure hope based on the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us live it, and let us declare it!

Meanwhile, there are two avenues we can follow in our search for solutions in the present order of things.

First, I propose that we work to correct the unfair monopoly of evolutionism in the public schools. This does *not* mean that we should press for inclusion of the Genesis account of creation in the science textbooks. Such efforts are misdirected and counterproductive.

We should insist, however, (1) that government not allow its weight, authority, and prestige to be used to impress on the pliable minds of ehildren the erroneous idea that an unproven theory that is undergoing eontinuous revision is an irrefutable law and a proven faet; (2) that the general theory of evolution be brought out of its privileged category and be made to fend for itself in the arena of open academic inquiry; (3) that teachers and textbooks present the scientifie data that raise serious problems for the theory of evolution, that tend to discredit it and make it untenable, even at the risk that the aeeumulation of such evidenee might prove to be fatal to the theory.

We must insist on these things on the basis that they are dcmanded by fairness, "truth in cducation," academic freedom, and intellectual honesty.

The second avenue involves defining just what the United States Supreme Court has actually said and done. For sure, statesponsored religious activities are forbidden. But the Supreme Court has extended an invitation to the schools to teach objectively about religion (Schempp-Murray, 1963).

Herein is the opportunity and the problem.

What should be taught about religion? Is it possible to study religion objectively? What will be said about the life, dcath, and resurrection of Jesus?

When the Bible is considered only as literature, is it not placed automatically on the same level as the Koran? This approach to the Bible is necessarily interpretive, as it "says" something to the student about the Bible.

Pupils cannot study history without considering the Church. Is the history of the Church and its role in western eivilization being presented without interpretation?

Since it is practically impossible to teach objectively about religion without interpretation to some degree, let us work to make the public school elassroom an open forum.

This is the second avenue that I propose we follow.

Let the classroom be open to full and free diseussion. Let students as well as teachers enjoy academie freedom. Let the "free exercise" clause operate.

All students should be free to diseuss their faith or absence of faith openly and without fear in an atmosphere of honest inquiry, fair play, eourtesy, and tolerance.

And everyone, including both Church and State, should work diligently to preserve this free, tolerant atmosphere.

This seems to be the only fair way. Perhaps it is the best way.

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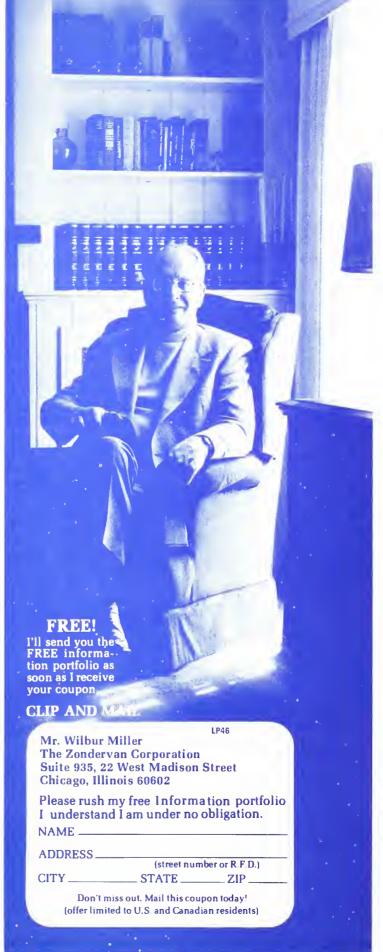
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# PIONEERS FOR CHRIST ACTION RALLIES

n the spring of 1975, from March 26 through 28, an exciting thing happened in Church of God. The first regional Pioneers for Christ Action Rallies were conducted in four strategic areas. The cities of Norfolk, Virginia; Indianapolis, Indiana; Fort Worth, Texas; and Atlanta, Georgia, were chosen as the target cities for an exciting new thrust of the Pioneers for Christ ministry in the Church of God.

The purpose was simple and challenging—to bring Church of God young people and their leaders together for two days and two nights of intensive training, challenge, and worship with the goal of equipping and involving them in witnessing and soulwinning in their local churches.

As I observed the young people who came for the Norfolk PFC Action Rally, it didn't take long to sense something different about this group. I ean't remember when I have ever seen a group of church youth who were so reverent, attentive, and anxious to learn. It was obvious they were there on business—big business, God's business!

On the last morning of the rally, what a sight it was to see

approximately two hundred youth and adults file out of Lake Wright Motel in Norfolk, board the waiting buses, and go to a nearby residential area to put into action what they had been studying in the rally. And it was a blessed experience to hear the thrilling testimonies when the participants returned from witnessing and to take part in the Communion service which elimaxed the meeting.

It worked! The PFC Action Rallies were a success. Of the hundreds who attended the four rallies, many returned to their churches with new courage and determination to become involved in the PFC witnessing ministry. In the months that have passed, there has been a marked increase in the demand for PFC organizational and witnessing materials from the Evangelism and Home Missions Department.

But those rallies were only the beginning. Two great PFC Aetion Rallies will be sponsored by the Evangelism Department in the spring of 1976 and will be conducted on the campuses of West Coast Bible College in Fresno, California, and Northwest Bible College in Minot, North Dakota. The dates for these rallies are May 10, 11, and 12 at Northwest and May 29, 30, and 31 at West Coast. These two rallies are situated so as to primarily serve the churches in the West and in the northwestern areas of the country.

Each loeal church should consider sponsoring at least two dedicated young people or youth leaders for one of these rallies. This would definitely be an investment in evangelism since the primary purpose of the PFC Action Rallies is to train, challenge, and inspire those who come and then to send them back to the local church to be leaders in Pioneers for Christ witnessing activities.

More specific information on the cost and other aspects of these meetings will be forthcoming from the General Evangelism Department and the state head-quarters for each region or may be obtained by writing to PFC International; Keith at 25th Street, N.W.; Cleveland, Tennessee 37311.☆

-Aubrey D. Maye

## MINISTERS' PLACEMENT SERVICE

ne of the ministries of the Evangelism and Home Missions Department is the Ministers' Placement Service. An applicant fills out a biographical data sheet giving two references. His references are contacted and they fill out a rating sheet. The overseers of mission states are notified of the applicant's desire to work in the area where he is needed, and the overseer is also furnished with the applicant's data sheet.

One of the greatest needs of our mission states is personnel. There are thousands of towns and eities representing millions of people where we do not have a church. All it takes to produce a church in these areas is a man with a call, a burden, a vision, and faith.

Every church had its beginning. Someone had to make the sacrifice to start the church. Many of our most powerful churches today at one time looked as though they might not

make it. Through faith, determination, and sacrifice, they have developed into powerful soul-saving stations and have started other congregations from their ranks.

One of the most challenging experiences of my life has been to visit our mission states. I have wept as I have driven with overseers and viewed the ripened fields of harvest waiting for someone to reap them. However, these fields of harvest are not only in mission states but all over this great nation of ours. Many areas of our nation have never been penetrated by our church. We need personnel to go into these areas and share Christ and His church with them.

I believe time is short: time is running out. God is calling many men to go into these fields of harvest. I have talked personally with many of these men who are dedicated to the task. I believe that in the months ahead many more are going to be called. Some will go; some will not. It is up to the individual to obey the call of God. It is up to the church to see that those called are placed in an area where God wants them to be. If all the workers that have been called by God were in His divine will, we would shake the world for God in this last hour.

If you feel that you are called and have a desire to work for the Lord, write the Evangelism and Missions Department; Keith at 25th Street, NW; Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Please include the names of your pastor, district overseer, and the church where your membership is.

We will do everything we can to assist you in being placed in an area where you can become involved in the greatest work on earth—the work of the Lord.

> -Raymond E. Crowley Assistant Director Evangelism and Home Missions

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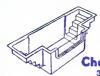
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#### BY GORDON CHILNERS

hen one youth group met, the leader asked the students: "What is your biggest problem when you pray?"

It seemed that a serious problem for them all was wandering thoughts. For most of them, it was their biggest discouragement in praying.

"Give us some details of how it works," urged the leader. "By sharing our experiences we ean see more easily what is wrong and use it as a foundation."

Eneouraged in this way, Mary Weaver began, "I start to pray, intending to concentrate on what I'm talking about. After a minute or two I'm miles away. If I've been out on a date the previous night, I think about it when I should be asking God to help me."

"When I try to pray," put in Harold Hefley, "all sorts of pictures fill my mind. None of them are even remotely eonneeted with what I'm saying to God. I'm supposed to be asking God to make me a better witness, when I'm thinking about how well I want to do in a ball game."

"Sometimes when I pray," said John Powell, "I come back to earth with a start, finding that I've said nothing at all to God for the last two minutes. Soon my time is gone and I have to go down to breakfast. I wonder just how much I've said in my five minutes."

Why do our thoughts wander when we pray? Being in a hurry is one cause. We rush into God's

presence, hoping to say as much as we can in a few moments. We cannot spend much time in meditation. Already we are thinking of what we have to do after we finish praying.

What we find strongest emotionally will dominate our uncontrolled thinking. The bad mark the English teacher gave us when we did at least a fair paper keeps eoming into our minds. Although we are praying that God will make our Christian witness effective, every other moment we are thinking about last night's date.

What we do regularly may eease to be a conscious activity and instead become routine. This could be true regarding our prayer life.

We are usually diligent in what we enjoy, but may become lazy in what we find dull. We get exeited about sports, but our studies are tedious; we never have developed a love for mathematies. If prayer is not as exciting to us as a ball game, then wandering thoughts may soon fill our minds.

Do our thoughts wander at any other time? At the end of the leeture, ean we say that our mind was eoncentrating the whole time? or were we thinking at any time about the student we met at the youth fellowship? or did our minds move to the ball game arranged for tomorrow? Our mental processes do not change when we pray. We earry the thought patterns of all our activities into our prayer-time.

Praying effectively depends on our being sure God is real. He is holy; so any sin—and it need not be as spectacular as holding up a bank or hijacking a plane—will loosen the ties of our fellowship with Him. God will become less real to us. Our thoughts will dash off to distant places.

A leader asked his youth group, "Who has had any suceess in overcoming wandering thoughts? or has anyone had an experience to pass on that will help us?"

Joe Anderson said, "I found that if I prayed as soon as I got out of bed, I was trying to pray before I was really awakc. I started praying at night, but I was so tired after studies and other activities that this time was no better than the morning. I then tried praying in the mornings again—but this time I washed, dressed, and rallied myself before I tried to pray. This was much better."

"Finding that I wasn't eoneentrating when I prayed," said Jill Collins, "I asked myself whether I was eoncentrating during lectures, when I was reading a book, or at ehureh. I found I was not. So I set about trying to think about what other people were saying or what I was doing. As my concentration began to improve in other aetivities, my wandering thoughts became less of a problem when I prayed."

The leader then added: "I have found that it is good to start my praying by being quiet for a moment. This has strengthened my purpose in praying as I realized I was having an audience with the King of kings. Often I had been rushing to get in my ten minutes in the morning. This quiet moment prevented my rushing irreverently into God's presence."

All our praying must be done in faith, so we should ask Him to strengthen our eoneentration and expect Him to answer this as well as our other requests.

We are less afflieted by wandering thoughts if we pray audibly. It is not as easy for our thoughts to rove far and wide if we say the words audibly. The physical and mental effort required to say words itself helps us to keep our minds on what we are saying.

Have you ever seen what

strong words are used in the Bible when praying is described? Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane was not afflieted with wandering thoughts. Luke says: "Being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). This sweating was in the open air on a bitterly eold night.

Outstanding men have also shown us how to be fervent in prayer. Elijah was specially known for his praying and the amazing answers he received from God. He regarded praying as such a serious matter that "he prayed earnestly" (James 5:17). His was no easy, meaningless repetition of words and phrases.

Paul speaks of Epaphras as "always labouring fervently for you in prayers" (Colossians 4: 12). The Greek word for "fervently" gives us our word agony. Let us avoid saying words thoughtlessly.

We will stimulate our eoneentration when we expect God to give us exeiting answers to our petitions. He knows what is best for us, and He knows how to give us His best. To increase our expectancy, we ean look back and recall some dramatic answers that God has already given to our earlier pctitions.

The oeeasional wandering thought, like temptation, tries to assert its authority over all of us. Yet it need not disturb us. Neither is it a sin in itself. We overeome temptation by resisting it. We prevent the wandering thought from beeoming a serious problem by refusing to pursue it, although we are conseious of it.

If you find that wandering thoughts in prayer is your problem, you should find your own eure for it.

### Youth Want to Know



Cecil R. Guile

Ceeil R. Guiles, general director of youth and Christian education, sponsors this page. Should you have a question, send it directly to Ceeil R. Guiles, Keith at Twenty-fifth Street, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Be sure to include your name, address, and age. Only answers of general interest will appear in this column.

#### **QUESTION:**

How ean I determine when God is speaking to me?

#### **ANSWER:**

There is no simple, elear-eut answer to this question, but there are eertain guidelines we must observe. First of all, God always speaks to us in agreement with His written Word. Any impression we get that eontradiets the Scriptures ean immediately be disearded. It definitely does not eome from God. Seeond, God speaks in terms of the permanent and the eternal more than the temporary and the immediate.

He will not lead us into any immediate situation that will hinder our future in any way. It is the other way around. God will allow us temporary inconvenience and difficulty in order to improve the quality of our future. Third, when God speaks to us it will always be for the ultimate benefit and blessing of others and ourselves. If it will in any way harm or hurt anyone, we can be sure that it is not God speaking.

We have the assurance of Christ in John 10:4: "The sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

—Dr. Charles W. Conn, President Lee College



#### EACH TIME

Each time we say a tender word, We give someone a lift. Each time we lend a helping hand.

We give a prieeless gift.

Each time we show a winning smile,

Some heart's a little lighter. Each time we're quick to understand,

Love shines a little brighter.

—Dianne Pendergrass



#### THEN YOU CAME

I was lonely, without hope for the future; and I earried an endless sadness from the past. I searched but could not find; I reached but could not touch. The word *love* was something I had to look up in a dictionary.

Then You eame. You gave me happiness for the present and hope for the future. I found what I was searching for and touched what I was reaching for. Now I can explain what love is without checking with Webster. You came—and the impossible became possible. Thank You, God.

—Sandra Litchford Michigan City, Indiana

### JESUS LIVES!

Though Christ works with great multitudes, He also cares enough for you and me to deal with us as individuals. He has infinite care for us, whether we are young or old. Jesus demonstrated His personal care just after His resurrection when He visited with two men.

A road reached from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of about seven miles, upon which two disciples walked. It was the afternoon of the first Easter; and as the two men plodded along, they were engrossed in conversation about the ignominious death of their Master, Christ Jesus.

Unenlightened about the resurrection of their Lord, they lamented what appeared to be the eternal loss of their great Leader. Two days earlier He had been snatched from them by ruthless men and nailed to a rugged cross. Now these two disciples trudged to Emmaus with sad hearts and perplexed minds. They were not two of the Twelve, but were, nonetheless, devoted followers of the Nazarene. One was Cleopas; the other, anonymous.

A Stranger overtook them presently, dropped into step with them, and joined in the conversation by asking, simply, "What are you talking about and why are you sad?" Surprised that anyone in the area would not know of the Crucifixion, the disciples concluded that He was from some other place. Then this Stranger, who was the resurrected Christ, began to explain scriptures about Himself to them.

Soon they reached Emmaus. That long, sad road was no longer sad or long after Jesus joined the two men, for He had stirred and challenged them to the depth of their souls. They would not allow Him to go further, but insisted that He stay with them. He stayed, He broke and blessed bread, He revealed Himself to them and then vanished. Miracle of all miracles, Christ had risen from the dead and was alive! They had seen Him!

That first Easter brought joy, faith, and contentment to Cleopas and his friend. They soon left their house, rushed back along Emmaus Road to Jerusalem, and told the Twelve that they had seen the Lord.

This Easter you may not see Christ visibly, but you can see Him anew by seeking Him in the Scriptures and in prayer. By searching for Him thus, the Holy Spirit can cause your heart to burn within you. He will reaffirm the truth that Christ is alive!

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HELP
YOUNG
PREACHERS

The Minister's Placement Service Can Help You

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- 2. Your name, address and resume will be mailed to all state overseers requesting our service.
- 3. You will be placed on our mailing list and notified when assignments or openings develop.
- 4. Notification of your availability will be sent to proper personnel upon your request.

The Minister's Placement Service has been established for the primary purpose of assisting you and our churches. Confidential records which you submit for our files will be released only at your request.

For Further information:
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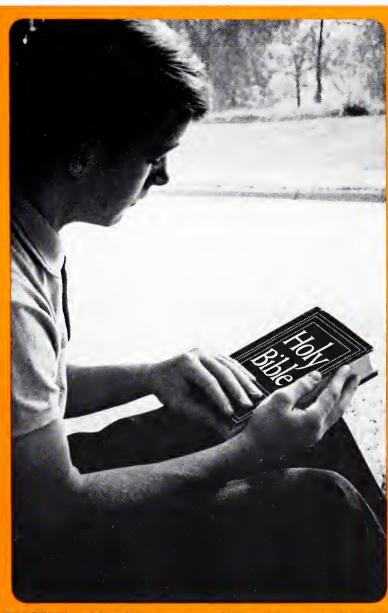
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**GIDNG YOUTH** 



UNOPENED LOVE LETTER

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ne night an elderly man decided to go through a pile of love letters he had received many years before from a sweetheart named Helen. To his surprise, he came upon one that he had never opened.

Trembling, he slit open the envelope. This was the last letter Helen had written him. He had broken up with her shortly before receiving it because she was twenty-two years younger, and he had felt the age difference was too great. In the letter Helen told Eddie that she had met another man, but she wanted to see him and talk about whether she should marry him.

"How that letter got mislaid I don't know," said Eddie. "If I had opened it, our whole lives would

have been ehanged, I think; because if I had it all to do over again, I would have married her."

It seems rather sad that a love letter that could have made a world of difference for two sweethearts was never opened. But it also seems sad to me that we human beings have a love letter from God that eould change our lives if we would read it. Yes, I'm thinking of the Bible, God's Word.

It is a love letter to us, for it is filled with the expression of God's great love and yearning for us from Genesis to Revelation.

In Genesis 1:26 we see that God thought so much of His intended creation, man, that He made him in His image. The Bible says, "And God blessed them" (Genesis 1:28). The Lord gave man a beautiful garden in which to dwell and eame to walk and talk

#### MURIEL LARSON

with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. God yearned for fellowship with those He created in His own image.

In Deuteronomy 33:12 we see the special love God has for those who have by faith become His people: "The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall eover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders."

Moses said this by inspiration of God. Now isn't that a love letter from the Lord? Isn't it sweet to know we have His presence and His protection?

The Word of God is full of such promises from the Lord. We fret and worry over things because we haven't opened His love letter to us. There it lies with other books, perhaps, collecting dust—this treasure trove of love and promise. And we may go on for years living a second-best life because we haven't been reading and reminding ourselves of the contents of that missive.

"What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?" Job asked of God (Job 7:17). Did you know that God's heart is set upon you?

Well, we would know it, if we'd remind ourselves from time to time that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

If we would onee in a while read the accounts of Christ's death on the cross and visualize Him lying willingly on the cross with hands stretched out for the nails to be pounded in—it certainly would remind us that God's heart is set on us! The Bible

tells us that "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

If the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God loves us that much, what have we to fear? Why can we not trust Him with everything in our lives? But we frail creatures of dust have a tendency to forget about God's love, don't we? That's one reason we need to read His love letter to us daily: to be reminded. Do you remember how you used to read over and over the love letters from your sweetheart? Every word was precious, wasn't it?

The Bible says, "The Lord loveth the righteous" (Psalm 146:8). Yes, although God loves the world and is not willing that any should perish, He has a special place in His heart for those of His children who try to live holy lives for Him and strive to do His will (Psalm 37). He has a special blessing for them on this earth, and He has rewards laid up for them in heaven. His love letter tells us all these things. It also tells us how to live the kind of life that is well pleasing to Him.

God's Word is full of illustrations of His love, just as a lover's letter to his sweetheart might be. (Read Song of Solomon with Christ in mind.)

The Bible tells of the many times the Israelites went after other gods and sinned, and the many times God wooed them back to Himself and in His great mercy forgave them. (Read Hosea for a poignant example of God's love.)

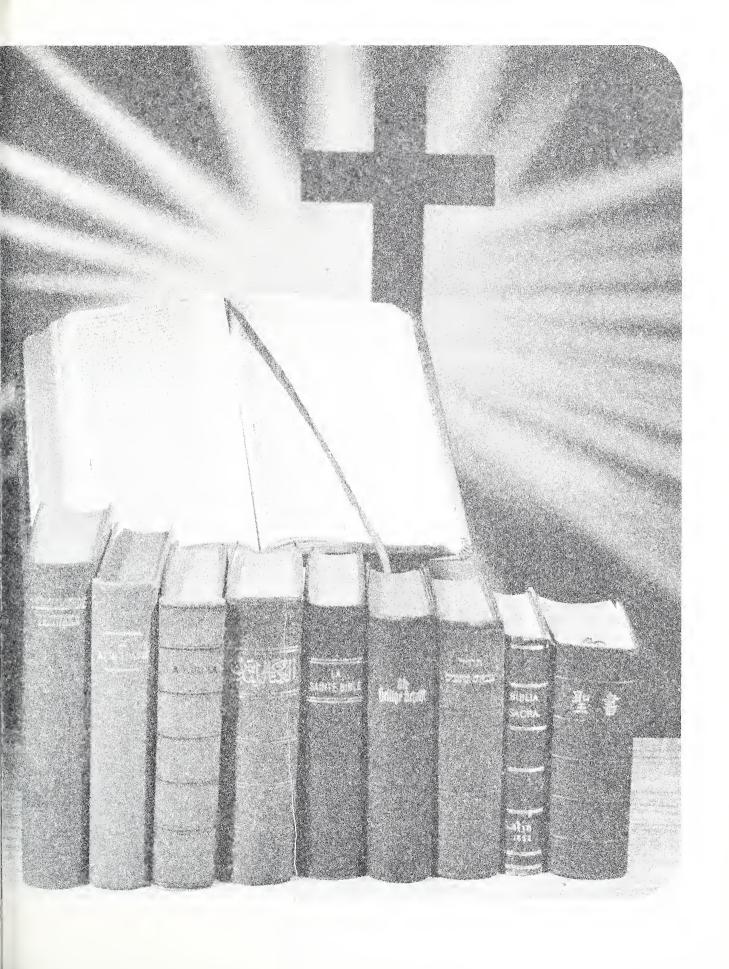
Isn't God like that today? Yes, His Word assures us that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). What patience, mercy, and grace! What love!

Some people may hold a grudge against us all our lives, no matter how we may try to gain forgiveness. But when we go to God in repentance, He forgives all and casts it into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). Some of us go around for years carrying a burden of guilt on our shoulders, because we haven't opened God's love letter and haven't seen that His total forgiveness is there for the taking. With His forgiveness and our acceptance of it comes peace. If God forgives us, we certainly ought to forgive ourselves and go on from there.

The Lord Jesus illustrated God's love with the parable of the Lost Sheep. He shows us how concerned the shepherd was for that one sheep that was lost (Luke 15:4-7). This parable shows our Lord's concern for us individually. Yes, He knows us by name.

Jesus also told about the prodigal son and how, after all his wanderings in a life of sin, his father welcomed him back home (Luke 15:11-32). This parable shows the Father's love and His willingness to forgive and forget our sins if only we will return in repentance to His arms!

The Bible says, "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Just as daily love letters serve to increase our love for our sweetheart, so reading God's Word and communicating with Him daily will increase our love and respect for Him. It will help us, as the Apostle Peter wrote, to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever" (2 Peter 3:18).



veryone has a self-image. It is how one sees himself in his mind, not in his

mirror. The person with the positive self-image sees himself as capable and confident. The one with the poor self-image may see himself as weak and worthless, even as a worm.

As long as it does not lead to cockiness or conceit, a strong self-image is healthy and desirable. It is an asset in every department of life. As you might surmise, a poor self-image is a liability in business, marriage, sports, college, politics, selling, and church and social affairs. You simply cannot see yourself as insignificant and expect to be successful.

Are you wondering where modesty and humility fit into the sclf-image picture? The person with the healthy image of himself will practice modesty and humility in moderation. The man or woman with the poor self-image will convert those virtues into the vices of self-condemnation and self-degradation. True humility is not making a career of self-effacement.

Our concern here, then, is how to improve a poor selfimage. In some cases, as you may know, the self-image of people can deteriorate to the point where they need psychiatric help. Such treat-

## IT'S NO SI TO LOVE YOURSELF

RUSSEL J. FORNWALT

ment can be expensive and time-consuming. Professional therapists charge up to one hundred dollars an hour with no promises or guarantees. The treatment may continue on a weekly or biweekly basis for as long as ten or even fifteen years. Some patients have spent a virtual lifetime in a regime of therapy.

But, if you are spiritually rooted, there is a less expensive, quicker, and even more effective way of strengthening your self-image; that is; you can see yourself as the Bible describes you.

This does not mean that you will have to read the Book from cover to cover continuously. In one sense, the Bible is like a medicine cabinet. In that cabinet may be dozens of items; but when you have a cold or a headache or a cut finger, you use only the items which are appropriate—not everything you see on the shelves. Similarly, for the treatment of a poor self-image you do not have to use



every verse in the Bible. Read and reflect only upon those which are appropriate.

To start your scriptural therapy, then, turn to verse 27 in the first chapter of Genesis. Here are the words: "So God created man in his own image." Perhaps you have read that passage many times. Now read it with real feeling, belief, and conviction. Those few words are an accurate description of you. And they provide you with a good reason for loving yourself.

Man was created in the image of God. These are not just the glib words or the cliche of a biblical writer; they are words of high authority and truth. Memorize them and meditate upon their meaning. Stand in front of your mirror and say, "God created me in His own image. I love God, and I love myself." Say those words with all the conviction you can command. Soon your poor selfimage or your feeling of worthlessness will commence to vanish.

What does it mean to be created in the image and likeness of God? It means that you were born with divine potentials and purposes and the power to fulfill them. Realize this with reverence rather than arrogance, and you will soon see how harmful it is to be self-effacing. To downgrade vourself is to demean and even deplore deity. To hate yourself is to hate, even despise, the very God who created you. Demonstrate your love for God by loving yourself and, of course, by loving all mankind.

Some people make the mistake of trying to upgrade or enhance their self-image by using artificial stimulants. Specifically, they resort to drugs and drinking. They think that cocaine or heroin will

beef up their self-confidence. They believe that alcohol will alleviate feelings of inadequacy or worthlessness.

Narcotics and alcohol have no place in a regimen for improving one's self-image. In the long run, they make no positive contribution to the development of a healthy ego or self-confidence. They are counterproductive.

They can lead straight to a less of self-control and a lowering of one's resistance to other harmful diversions which should be carefully avoided. "Cocktail confidence," or the self-image propped up by martinis or marijuana, is never long lasting or healthy—or right.

Nowhere, but nowhere, is a poor self-image sanctioned or recommended in the Bible. To be sure, we are advised not to be vain or self-exalting. We are not to think more highly of ourselves than we should. But a truly healthy self-image is neither vanity nor conceit. It is a spiritual quality of the highest order.

Another potent passage for overpowering the poor selfimage is this one: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). You have it on scriptural authority to see yourself as the crowning glory of creation. You have every right to see yourself as God's idea and God's ideal. In creating you in His own image, God endowed you with intelligence, ingenuity, integrity, and insight. He endowed you with an individuality unlike that of any other person. And He also endowed you with great purpose. Why not love yourself?

"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me" (Psalm 119: 73). And those wonderful hands made you a marvel of mind, muscle, and emotion. You are the finest, the ultimate in terms of form, physique, and feeling quality. See yourself, then, not as a miserable creature, but as God's miracle of miracles. You are not a mistake; you are magnificence.

Let your self-image be that of the victor and not the victim of conditions and circumstances. See yourself as one destined to do great things, for, again, you have it on the highest authority: "The works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do" (John 14:12).

Along with the poor self-image often go feelings of depression, guilt, and constant failure, and even thoughts of self-destruction.

Sometimes it is just these very feelings that cause people to indulge in some kind of self-abuse. It might be self-abuse by drugs, drinking, sexual promiscuity, or any other harmful diversion.

There is no need to feel unworthy, no need to feel inadequate, and no need to feel hapless, hopeless, helpless, or hated. See yourself always as the recipient of God's love, carc, power, strength, and riches, for the Bible says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

For health, happiness, and harmony in your life, a strong self-image is important. Wholesome living habits are important, too. To coin a phrase, "A man becomes what he thinks and drinks."

A positive self-image is essential to success in every department of life. See yourself, then, as God created you—in His image and likeness. It is no sin to love that image and likeness.



# SENDIR What a diffe a loving, und soon the time and divide the ones. Which kind

esus told a story of a man who rented his farm to tenants. When the crop was harvested, the owner sent his son to collect the rent. Instead of paying, the tenants killed the son. (See Luke

20:9-16.)

The story Christ told applied to His rejection by His generation. The people had refused to listen to the prophets God had sent, so finally He sent His own cherished Son, whom they crucified on the Cross.

How often do we stop to realize that we, today, are merely tenants living on land that really does not belong to us? God, who created the universe, holds the land in His hands. God, our owner, raised His Son back to life so that if we would believe in His Son and accept Him, we would have eternal life. He has sent ministers, missionaries, and workers out into His vineyard, but so often they, along with His Son, are refused and turned away. The only rent we, as tenants, are asked to pay is to accept and believe in God's Son and to daily love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

If we really want to repay God, we will strive to have a heart like His Son—a heart filled with love, compassion, understanding, patience, and kindness. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 we are told that when we have a heart like His, we will never be jealous, envious, boastful, proud haughty, selfish, or rude. We will not demand our own way. We will not be irritable or touchy. We won't hold grudges and notice when others do wrong. (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-7). When you really love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always expect the best of him, and you will always stand your ground in defending him.

So often when earthly owners of land are not paid, they are quick to become angry and indignant, and they even desire to take the other to court. What a different owner you and I have! He has a loving, understanding, and patient heart. But soon the time will come for the Owner to come and divide the paying tenants from the nonpaying

Which kind of tenant are you?

JOAN SWANK

glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and is necessary for forgiveness of sins.

5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ, through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.

7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.

In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
 In one God eternally existing in three

2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary; that Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

4. That all have sinned and come short of the

12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.

13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus—first, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to him in the air and, second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.

14. In the bodily resurrection; in eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

8. In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.

9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

10. In water baptism by immersion and that all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.

### YOUTH DAY AT CAMP MEETING

Interwoven in the fabric of freedom of America is the spirit of camp meeting.

The Declaration of Independence set forth the beliefs and goals of a united group of people who were determined to build one nation under God with liberty and justice for all. We celebrate these people and principles with pride and satisfaction during our Bicentennial.

The Declaration of Faith of the Church of God outlines the scriptural position and practices of people who have united themselves in a

common faith to live for the Lord in truth and righteousness.

The doctrine of the Church of God and the dedication of her people has helped to shape America.

Youth Day at camp meeting provides youth with an opportunity to be involved in activities that support the goals of our country and our church. Plan to attend!

Floyd D. Carey
 Assistant General Director
 of Youth and Christian Education

# INHAT CHURCH INTERNATION INTER

Four Teenagers Share
Their Testimony



Starting at the close right, and reading counter-clockwise, are pictured Kathy Isbell, Frenchie Floyd, Joy Kelley, and Freddie L. Edwards



hurch membership





is t h e natural thing for a Christian. One cannot please Iesus by neglecting His church. Because Iesus loved the church, everyone who loves Christ will come to love His church also. Church membership means more than one can imagine. Each member should seek to honor Christ in every situation. The Christian's greatest needs are met through the church. The church is a divine institution, established by Jesus and having a holy mission and a high purpose. Membership in my church means obedience and guidance for my daily life.

-Kathy Isbell

he church, to me, is an organization to which every child of God should belong. Church membership means that I am committed to believing and obeying the church rules set forth for its members. To me, it means believing in the wonderful Holy Ghost and living a holy and righteous life. It is joining up with a group of thriving, growing, believing, holy people. The Bible says you must live a holy life to make it to heaven. That's why I believe in a holy church, a holy Bible, and most of all a holy God. The most important church membership to me is Church of God membership. Praise the Lord!

-Frenchie Floyd

f you are a Christian, you know what it's like to go through trials. I've b e e n through

many in just the few years I've been a Christian, and I can honestly say that it was my church membership that helped to see me through. When one is a church member, he not only has the Lord to stand by him, but he also has other members. Having Jesus in your life is what really matters. I am determined to fully dedicate my life to God, and being a member of the Church of God is helping me do so.

—Joy Kelley

h u r c h membership—now that's an interesting subject! Some people feel that it's unim-

portant; others feel it is essential. I say it's a necessity. I believe church membership often determines where a person will spend eternity. If it had not been for my membership in the church, for the feeling of belonging, and for the love of fellow Christians, perhaps I would have stumbled and would not have made it in the dark, dismal hours that we sometimes go through. In His Word God tells us that believers should not forsake assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). He wanted us to know that this coming together is important and that we should be a part of His church. My membership has meant many things, but most important of all it has meant the difference between defeat and victory.

—Freddie L. Edwards

The Opportunity and Responsibility of Every American Youth - O- F- ( ) | - | - | CHRISTIAN FLAG MINNIE CAREY I pledge allegiance A faith promise activated by love. "I have surrendered all" commitment. to the Christian flage he "cross and crown" - representing forgiveness, purity, royalty. and to the Savior Jesus Shrist, the June of Teace, the Son of Tod. for whose kingdom it stands; I visible symbol to remind and inspire. His mighty works in helievere and in the world and then one day to new heaven and a new earth.

One Savior For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4.12). crucified, risen, Marled to the cross for the sins of fullen man. Triumphed over death, hell, and the grave. and coming again, I sturning to earth to fulfill His promise and to take this children to live with Him. with life and liberty Temoval of pain, tears, death — eternal life. Treedom from evil pressures and trials. to all who believe. Those who accept God's Word, repent, believe, and follow Christ as Lord. People of every nation, color, and age. 11

# IN JUNES JIM MADISON



ynn Golden, seventeen, a senior at Central High, was named Knoxville's 1976
Junior Miss at the annual pageant on
November 29 at Knoxville's Civic Auditorium. Miss Golden was selected by
the panel of judges from thirty-three area high school senior girls. The award represents singular honor to
Knoxville's outstanding high school senior girl.

Lynn competed in Tennessee's Junior Miss Pageant in Chattanooga on January 31 and was awarded sccond place from among approximately twenty-five junior misses from all over Tennessee who competed for the title. Scholarships and awards totaling approximately \$5,000 were awarded.

Miss Golden was presented with a trophy, area gift certificates, and a \$500 scholarship. Not only was she named Junior Miss for 1976, but she also received the "Miss Talent" trophy and awards for her vocal solo "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The Junior Miss Pageant stresses in its judging the importance of character, personality, scholarship, intelligence, poise, participation in extracurricular activities, talent, and general appearance. It is not a beauty pageant, nor is there a competition in bathing suits.

Music dominates Lynn's life, as she teaches piano

and serves as a member of the Senior Chorale and Pop Choir at Central High. She was selected as Homecoming Queen during her sophomore year and as "Most Talented Senior Superlative." She was a member of the All-State Choir for two years, and also was a member of the All-City Choir.

Lynn uses her talent and ability in Christian service, serving as a member of her church youth choir and sanctuary choir, as well as a church soloist. She was selected as Tennessee's Vocal Solo State Champion in Church of God competition in 1974 and received a superior rating in competition in the National Teen Talent Finals in August, 1974, in Dallas, Texas.

The Reverend Earl Golden, Lynn's pastor at the Eighth Avenue Church of God, Knoxville, Tennessee, says, "Lynn is a very beautiful, deserving young lady, and I commend her for her faith in God and her Christian character." Lynn plans to enter Lee College for the fall semester of 1976. She is the daughter of Mrs. Norma Golden, Knoxville, Tennessee, and the granddaughter of the Reverend and Mrs. C. J. Hindmon of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Pinellas Park, Florida.

The Church of God can be justly proud of Lynn Golden for her achievements.

campus evangelism

STICDW

and too often fatal, industrial day Americans have come to pollutions have been curtailed. Future generations will be able beauty to be found in America enveloping the crests of mounare an inspiration to many. The to see and enjoy what presentcause of these laws harmful by the creations of God. Beica's vast wonderland inhabited sure the preservation of Amer-Laws have been created to infrom watching a scarlet sunset tains are testimony to the teeling of awe one receives the scenic areas of our nation The magnificent beauty of choose to be wrong-

ciate the wisdom of our Founding Fathers in their decision to and a privilege. How I apprechoice. They knew, as God makes my life for Christ a joy most precious gift of all: selfsion, He endowed man with the legislated. For the freedom to knew, that salvation cannot be follow God's example of free ing God of my own freewill control of his ultimate destiny dom to make the wrong deciwith the right to accept or reject The knowledge that I am serv-His love. In giving man the free-God made man a free agent



# AMERICA A happy happy happy?

As America's birthday is coming up soon, I have been asking myself, "What can I do to wish America a happy birthday?" I think about our traditional practice of giving a gift, and I feel that I would like to give a gift to this country that has given me so much. But I wonder, What kind of gift can I present to America?

I know that in order to give a gift that is appreciated, it is necessary to know what kind of person you are giving the gift to. The more you know about a person, the easier you can choose an appropriate gift. Therefore, in order to give a meaningful gift to America, I must consider what America is like: her goals, her character, and her dreams.

What is America? She is more than just a government, more than just a land within set boundaries, more than a world power or an economic structure. Even though our governmental leaders are chosen by the majority, the minority is just as much a part of America. I am continually reminded that America encompasses more than one race, and everybody does not belong to my religion or denomination. I cannot pin-

In all, I have to realize that America is people—people of different backgrounds, cultures and environments; people of different races, religions, and hopes; people with individual needs, desires, ideals, and goals.

cultures and etimic groups.



To wish America a happy birthday is to wish separate individuals goodwill. But how can las a fellow American wish other people goodwill? First! can start by treating them with respect and as equals. I can share my possessions and abilities with them and show that I am concerned about their needs. I can strive to help them find expression, develop ideals, and realize goals. Second, I can take time out to listen, to love, and to be a friend.

In essence, I will try to give others the attention I want and need myself. Christ spoke of the second greatest commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." This is the way to wish America a happy birthday—love your neighbor and share the American spirit and the Christian spirit.

-Jamey Camack

To say the least, in this world of woe-seekers and pessimists, the question "What does an optimistic young American look like?" is interesting as well as relevant. For indeed, what does an optimistic young American look like?

American youth has a distinct appearance, with a cheery smile and twinkling eyes, revealing his joyful outlook on life His brow is not furrowed by worry because he realizes that America is in the hands of One far greater than we could ever imagine. His lips are slow to criticize, but quick to praise others and his country.

He has a bright outlook on life and his country. He realizes that this country has many, many problems; but he tries to correct, not destroy. He can be joyful because he has the ability to appreciate the good of this country.

He is also joyful because he loves others and his country in deed, not just in word or

thought. He bears all things, hopes all things, and endures all things for his God and his country.

His heart is used to carrying the burdens of others. Tears come easily as he sees the plight of the poor and the underprivileged in this country as well as abroad. His feet do not grow weary from toiling for the good of others. He can be often seen in reverent communication with the Father, bringing his supplications for this country to the throne of God.

This is a brief caricature of the personality, spirituality, and appearance of an optimistic American youth. He can be black, brown, red, yellow, or white. He can be rich, poor, fat, slim, male, or female. It really does not matter; the really important thing is that he is an American who rests his faith in his Lord and his country.

—Russell Miller, Victor Morris, and Butch Morrisett



Church of God — Youth and Christian Education Department Staff — Cecil R. Guiles, Floyd D. Carey, R. Lamar Vest

## The American Spirit test

PAUL REVERE ...

JOHN HAWCOCK ...

correct answer. think profusely, and circle the Read each question carefully

- Ethan Allen was a . . . Famous hunter.
- British general. Vermont patriot
- Kate Smith is famous for a. Battle Hymn of the

Ņ

- "God Bless America." Republic." "Way Down Upon the
- The Civil War began at Battle Creek, Michigan

Suwannee River."

ω

- Fort Sumter, South Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.
- Carolina.
- Spangled Banner''?
  a. Francis Scott Key Who wrote "The Star
- General Robert E. Lee
- Stonewall Jackson
- 5 Benjamin Franklin suggested for our national bird
- . 0 . a Cuckoo
- Dove. Turkey.
- What was the Merrimack?
  a. A U.S. ship
  b. Site of the first World

<u>ග</u>

- First U.S. blimp
- E Pluribus Unum means . . ص م "In God we trust."
- "Goodwill toward men." "One out of many."
- (Correct Answers: 1-b; 2-b; 3-c; 4-a; 5-b; 6-a; 7-b)

OVERTIME OR I WONT MOVE I DON'T CARE WHO'S COMING!

OF AUTHORITY

UNTIL IN PROMISED A POSITION BUT IN NOT SIGNING ANYTHING DECLARE WHATEVER YOU LIKE





PASSES A SAFETY INSPECTION RIVER UNTIL THAT BOAT ... I'M NOT CROSSING THE

VATHAN HALE ...

NOT ME! I HAVE ONLY ONE UPE REGRETS, REGRETS, REGRETS

Carey / Harbaugh

she is. For the privilege of parwants to run the government of public honor. Voting is a privihis country is a man's greatest have a voice in the running of that many people covet. To fullest extent, voting is a right Americans do not use to its his country. For a privilege that voice his opinion about who he of eighteen, an American can privilege and, therefore, abuse trol their lives. Yet so many government and indirectly conto choose the men who run their lege that makes America what it. At the relatively young age Americans refuse to use this Americans are given the right

ticipating in our democracy— Truthway pays tribute to

### AMERICAN DISCORY EOLICATION IN RELIGION AND

were created and supported by of America and the Civil War nations, colleges also grew. played a great role in molding leaders. Early colleges also religious organizations. The ligious, and practically all colthe growth of religious denomiwere founded to meet the spiriministers and learned political realized the need for educated leges founded between the birth Most colonial colleges were re tual needs of this country. With ounders of these colleges The first colleges in America

the cultural life of colonia

other colleges, most of which are still in use today. toundation and growth of many Awakening. This period of exother colleges during the Great 1800s, which stimulated the pansion was followed by the preceded the founding of six William and Mary, and Yale, Denominational Era in the The first colleges, Harvard

colleges or cut off federal aid secularize several religious the government attempt to to them. Several colleges have pends on the willingness of they believe in. We have seen God's people to stand for what American religious colleges de However, the future of these

> gious standards. retused to compromise its relilost federal funds because it example, Brigham Young has because of such pressure. For other religious organizations removed chapel services and

their right of religious freedom men and women will exercise tunity will remain open only if crossroads. The door of opporsenators and congressmen to such pressure because it has the situation. Lee and other lose federal support, if the peo-However, we do not have to also refused to compromise religious colleges are at a ple of our church will alert their -Sandra Carpenter, Dennis Lee college is now facing

Dupont, and Bobby Cross

# 300 BLESS AMERICA America has undoubtedly America has an advantage

added unto you" (Matthew and all these things shall be blessed our nation materially. cause of this concern for revival of Pentecostalism. Becent evidence is found in the choice. Some of the most resulted from this freedom of Spiritual awakenings have reenjoyed one of the most pros-This fulfilled the scripture, the basis of religious freedom because she was founded on perous beginnings in history God, and his righteousness Seek ye first the kingdom of

country has had the freedom of new civilization. As a result, our over the mother countries of beginning of the countless medical aid. This is only the ing strides taken in the field of world of careers to everyone, ing its populace, it offers a supported the cause of educat-Since America has faithfully advancing in various fields. not serve as the originator of a the Old World in that she did medicine, including adequate However, it would be unfair to ranging from janitors to doctors facilities and the availability of America and omit the astound list God's blessings upon

> our nation. blessings God has bestowed on

more? flect on the blessings He has How could God bless America individual choice. America is wealth rests in the freedom of given us in the past. The Chrisdo for us in the future, but re-Bicentennial year, don't selfish-America" sung during this reedom! Freedom is America Without a doubt, her greatest His blessings to this country have reason to thank God for tian and the non-Christian alike ly think of what He is going to When you hear "God Bless

-Cathy Pegram, Deborah Batts, and Robyn Feuquay



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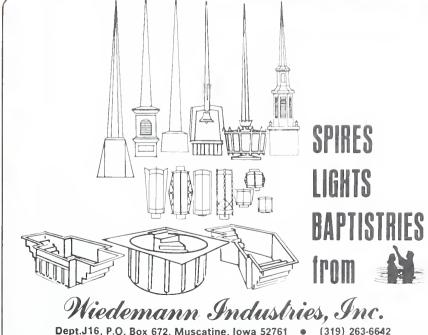
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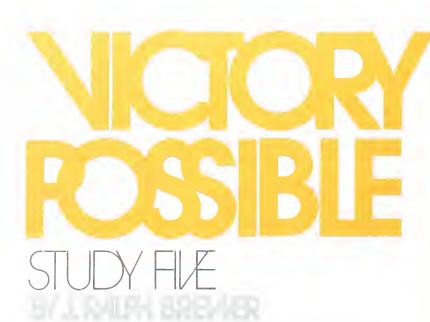
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#### Youth and Christian Education Director, Michigan

Purpose: To show that the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to deal with his temptations and to live an overcoming life

Introduction: In this study, we will examine a problem that has plagued the human race since the Garden of Eden—that of temptation. Temptation is no respecter of persons. Like a man's shadow, it follows him. While it is true that we must contend with temptation, it is not true that we must succumb to it. Jesus, our perfect example, "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Victory is possible. We can be triumphant through the abundant provisions of God's grace and power (read 2 Corinthians 2:14). (Read and study all the Scripture references.)

#### I. KNOW YOUR PROBLEM

- A. Temptation Is Not Sin (James 1:13-15).
  - Much confusion has resulted from failure to distinguish clearly between temptation and sin. Temptation is the invitation to do wrong, while sin is the acceptance of the invitation. This does not mean, of course, that an outward act must be committed for sin to occur. Sin occurs when it is formed in the heart (James 1:15). Never allow your heart and mind to become a breeding ground for evil.
- B. Temptation Can Be a Stumbling Block or a Stepping-stone (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7)
  - There is a positive and a negative aspect of temptation. While the possibility of sin exists, the possibility of joyous victory also exists. A wholesome attitude for the Christian is to regard temptation as an opportunity to prove his faith and to develop his character.

#### II. KNOW YOUR ENEMIES

A. Faternal Enemy—The World (1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 5:4-5)
The world is the system around us that opposes God. We must constantly he alert to its subtle enticements.

- B. Internal Enemy—Self (James 1:14)
  Temptation also comes through bodily appetites. Satan seeks to misuse, abuse, or misdirect normal, natural appetites.
- C. Infernal Enemy—The Devil (1 Peter 5:8, 9; Luke 22:31-32) It is Satan's all-consuming purpose to defeat and destroy you. Recognize him for the liar he is (John 8:44). Do not give ear to his voice.

#### III. KNOW YOUR RESOURCES

There are four principles in the Word of God for dealing with temptation:

- A. The Principle of Escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)
  God always provides an exit—an escape hatch. Look for it and use it.
- B. The Principle of Doing Good (Romans 12:21)
  Moffatt's translation says, "Never let evil get the better of you; get the better of evil by doing good."
- C. The Principle of Resistance (James 4:7, 8)

  There is power in a positive no. Resist the devil and mean it.
- D. The Principle of Allowing God to Fight for You (1 John 4:4)
  God has given you power through the person of the Holy
  Ghost. He will fight the battle for you.

#### ASSIGNMENT

After carefully reading and studying all the Scripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise:

- 2. Temptation can be a ...... or a ....
- 3. Name three enemies with which we must contend: ......,

.....

4. List the four principles given in this lesson in dealing with temptations:

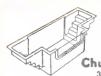


### **JESUS**

He's my Savior, my healer, my soon-coming king, My provider, my maker, my reason to sing.

He's my counselor, my intercessor with God on the throne, My best friend—He's Jesus—and He gave me a song.

-Dianne Pendergrass



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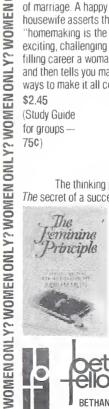


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# EARIHQUAKE IN GUNTENAL

ime magazine referred to the earthquake that shook Guatemala on February 4, 1976, as, "39 Seconds—an Eternity of Terror." It was the worst earthquake in the history of Central America. More than 23,000 people were killed and one-sixth of the population of the country are homeless.

Through Youth World Evangelism Appeal and other missionary education programs, Church of God young people have developed a vision and concern for missions activities around the world. This interview report was prepared by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education, with Marcus Hand to inform our youth of the earthquake disaster in Guatemala. Marcus is the editor of missions publications in the World Missions Department. He recently made a trip to Guatemala, and his answers to the interview questions will provide us with a firsthand report of conditions there.

#### Question: Were there any Church of God missionaries or ministers killed in the earthquake?

Marcus: Fortunately, our missionaries were unharmed. Robert Goodrich is overseer of the central territory, Oscar Castillo is overseer of the northern territory, and Jose Minay is overseer of western Guatemala.

It was indeed a miracle that only one of the Church of God's 451 ministers in Guatemala was killed. The Reverend Norberto Argueta, the oldest Church of God minister in the country, was buried alive with his family in the village of Tecpan.

#### Question: How much damage was done to our churches?

Marcus: At least seventy of our churches and sixty parsonages were totally destroyed in the disaster. Over five hundred Church of God families lost their homes and everything they had. Several of our pastors lost children in the earthquake. It will be years before the extent of damage to the entire country is known. When dawn broke on February 4, whole villages had been leveled and more than one million persons were homeless. More than 23,000 had been killed.

#### Question: What is the Church of God doing to help the suffering and homeless?

Marcus: When news of the extent of the earthquake began trickling out, World Missions officials immediately made available thirty thousand dollars for relief work. In a matter of hours after the initial quake, two truckloads of food and supplies went to Guatemala from our people in El Salvador. It was only a few days before Superintendent Bonilla and the brethren from Mexico went to Guatemala with truckloads of supplies. A pastor from Houston, Texas, W. I. Parten, took a truckload of materials to our distressed people. General Overseer Wade H. Horton and Executive Missions Secretary T. L. Forester flew to the scene to survey the damages and make plans for helping our people in need.

An appeal has gone out and many people are responding to the call for help. The Church of God in Puerto Rico has sent two thousand dollars. Church of God members in the Dominican Republic have raised approximately nine hundred dollars. Many state councils and local churches are raising funds for emergency relief for Guatemala.

Right now we are trying to feed our people and get roofs over their heads. The rainy season begins in April, and without proper shelter and food many will die of starvation and malnutrition. An appeal has gone out from the General Overseer to all of our churches requesting help for this emergency situation.

#### Question: What is the attitude of the Guatemalan people in the face of such utter devastation?

Marcus: The people of Guatemala are amazingly resilient and optimistic. Everywhere in the country you see signs which read, "Guatemala en pie!" Roughly translated it means "Guatemala is on its feet; we will make it; we might be down but we're not out!" The people seem to have an abiding feeling that somehow they will live through this nightmare. They plan to rebuild where they are now. They are extremely grateful that they are among the living and not the dead.

Erica Carello has been "the best youth worker in

### BY THE GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WITH MARCUS HAND

### A Report to Church of God Youth on entral America's Greatest Disaster

Guatemala," according to Central Overseer Robert Goodrich. A young unmarried lady, she has had a zeal that is seldom matched anywhere. Church officials in Guatemala called her their "right arm" when it came to leading the youth of the central territory. Erica lived in Guatemala City.

Three days before the earthquake she decided to go to the mountains to visit her parents. She had been in the village where she was brought up for three days, and this was to be her last night home. When the sun arose on February 4, Erica lay under the ruins of her parents' demolished home. Miracu-

lously she escaped with her life; but her pelvis is broken, as well as one hip and both legs.

Erica exemplifies the spirit of the people of Guatemala. She lies in a little makeshift lean-to, smiling brightly, greeting her visitors, and literally beaming out the love of God. She is thankful that she is still alive, and she wants to continue working for God.

Question: What can Church of God young people do for Guatemala? How can they help to relieve the suffering and assist in rebuilding our churches?

Marcus: There is a tremendous amount of work to be done. It will take at least a quarter of a million dollars just to rebuild the churches and parsonages which were destroyed in the earthquake. You can assist by starting a drive to raise supplies for Guatemala. They especially need blankets and clothing. Blankets are used as temporary shelters, as room dividers for small huts, as suitcases for refugees, as child carriers for mothers with infants, and as raw materials for clothing. Outgrown clothing in good condition can also be donated to the people in Guatemala. All goods will be shipped to Guatemala by the World Missions Department.

You can assist by raising money. The big need right now is to get roofs over the heads of our people before the worst part of the rainy season. It will take at least two hundred dollars just to put a roof over the heads of one family. This will not build walls, etc., but it will get them out of the rain. Begin a drive among your group to raise money for our suffering brothers and sisters in Guatemala.

You can assist by praying. God works miracles today. While we are doing what we can in a material way, we must not forget that prayer is our greatest resource. The God who turned water into wine and multiplied the little lad's lunch can take the resources that we give and meet the needs of the people of Guatemala.

All donations and materials should be sent to World Missions, Church of God General Offices, Keith at 25th NW, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Checks should be designated: "Guatemala Relief Fund."







I've been a Christian for six great years, and they have truly been the best years of my life.

Without a doubt this last year has been the most exciting of them all. I have finally learned, after many trying moments, that I am not perfect. In times past I tried so hard to do those things pleasing to Christ; and when I sometimes failed to reach my idea of rightcousness, it was very discouraging. But I have found that Christ is my perfection, my righteousness, and my holiness. I tried to muster up these virtues in myself, which is totally absurd. Now that my total dependence is upon the Lord and not my own works, I have found a peace and love that I have never experienced before.

The Lord has been so very good to me, and I thank Him for His many blessings. This year I married Randy Hamon, the most wonderful man in the world. Randy is a great help to me, and together we hope to do all we can for God during our short stay in this life. -Kathy Hamon

When a smiling girl from Fairfield, Ohio, was named Queen of the College during Homecoming festivities at Lee in 1974, she was Kathy Flynn. However, shortly after relinquishing her crown to Sherry Pennington in 1975, Kathy married Randy Hamon.

While attending Fairfield Senior High, Kathy served as cheerleader, member of the Student Council and Homecoming Queen. Since entering Lee, majoring in elementary education, Kathy has represented Pioneers for Christ in Parade of Favorites and has been chosen as May Queen and as Homecoming Queen.

> ven as a little girl I had the desire to attend Lec College and to be a part of a school where Christ is the center of all activities. So when I graduated from high school, I applied to Lee and

this dream of a little girl became a reality.

My two years at Lee have brought me in contact with many Christians from all over the world. I have made many new friends, but most important of all I have grown and matured in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through a campus group known as the Pioneers for Christ I have been given the opportunity to witness to people in many different states. I have seen rich and poor, black and white, young and old come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Sav-

There is no greater experience than to see a heart softened by the love of the Savior or to feel a lonely hand reach out to you or to see a smile break out on the facc of someone in a convalescent home when he sees that you really care.

Also at Lcc there are many other ways to witness for Christ. I have been given the privilege to take part in several social service clubs. K-ettes and Sigma Nu Sigma arc campus organizations that seek to benefit church, school, and community. Many students at Lee have the opportunity to work in local churches, and I am teaching the college class at the Hopewell Church of God. Only by coming to Lee would I have been given these opportunities of working "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Thank God for Lee College and the opportunity for Christian service! -Sherry Pennington

Sherry Pennington, from Gastonia, North Carolina, has been crowned as Queen of the College during ceremonies at Lee College.

Sherry entered Lee after graduating from Hunter High in 1974. During her two years at Lee, she has had the opportunity to work with K-ettes, a club giving assistance to those in need, and Sigma Nu Sigma, a campus service club seeking to benefit church, school, and community. She serves as a resident assistant for the Nina Driggers Philological Association and spends many weekends with Pioneers for Christ, a campus organization which visits various states and shares its testimony of faith in Jesus Christ.

In 1974 Sherry served on the Homecoming Court as the representative for the Freshman Class. She represented K-ettes in the Parade of Favorites and is a past Miss North Carolina State Bible School.

## GOD IHINGS DON'I



## JUST HAPPEN

ood bread doesn't just happen," an efficient homemaker said, "It is the result of much practice and effort." But isn't that true of all the good things life offers?

From composition to performance, a fine concerto represents manifold hours of repetitious practice. An artist paints, then retouches again and again until the painting truly expresses his emotion or idea.

A good book won't write itself. An author writes and rewrites as solitary time flies by on magic wings or drags itself on leaden feet, according to the amount of inspiration he can summon to his aid.

Lessons won't prepare themselves. In order to lead students into realizing that the trail of learning is filled with beauty, a teacher expends continual effort.

Satisfying human relationships in a family or among others don't just happen. Harmony is created because someone is willing to exercise self-discipline and often, self-denial.

It is true; good things don't just happen. Someone has to make them happen.

-Nancy M. Armstrong

#### LON MODERUM

ome people dabble in evil; others take the plunge and go down deep. Such a person was Bill. Bill did a long service hitch in Vietnam. When he returned to Florida he was not much changed—except he had become a pot user. Back home he fell in with other pot users; they inveigled him into trying LSD. Bill made an eighteen-hour trip on his first dose of the hallucinatory drug. When he finally got back from the trip he felt he had been on some sort of a spiritual quest.

Bill got a job. His apartment became a hangout for swingers. He decided LSD was taking too much of his time, so he tried cocaine. Then he took up the big, deadly drug—heroin. It wasn't long before he was in chains; dope had made him its slave. The habit

cost him fifty dollars a day and he couldn't get free of it.

Bill's job wasn't paying him enough to support his habit, so he entered the dopesmuggling game, bringing in drugs from Jamaica. This business wasn't as hard to operate as Bill had imagined. They brought in the stuff in rented planes. Once in Florida they "cut" the heroin and made a big profit.

Then Bill took another downward step. He got involved with the Satanists. (The Church of Satan was doing well in Miami.) Bill's first challenge from them was to destroy a picture of Jesus. This act was supposed to make him the devil's servant. But Bill refused to do it. However, some of his pals got him to a warlock (male witch) party. There he met a man named Hector, who was evidently some

sort of a specialist in the Satan business. The man seemed to hold everybody in the room in his spell. Suddenly it struck Bill with great force that his friends had arranged this party for him. They were going to make a Satanist of him! Abruptly Bill felt that death was very close.

The death-feeling deepened. He wondered if he were going insane. Then something else happened to Bill. He was never able to understand it. He was not familiar with the Scriptures; yet he felt he was suddenly thrust before the judgment of the Almighty and a voice told him that he was a sinner and damned. Strangely enough, Bill's mind utterly agreed with the indictment. It was true: he was guilty of death for the wrongs he had committed.

# HOM/BILLFLED FROM SHIMI

His nerves were pushing him to a point of shrieking. Somehow he fled the scene. The laughter of his "friends" rose behind him as he fled. He ran with something like a tape playback going on in his head: he had never really cared for anybody but himself. He had lived a rotten, useless life. Now he was running—hopeless, alone.

Finally he collapsed. Darkness came down upon him. The flames of hell seemed to crackle in his ears. Then, in the darkness, he recalled somebody reading the Bible to him when he was a child and telling him Jesus wanted to save him.

Wrapped in darkness, Bill began crying to Jesus. After a while he realized he was kneeling, praying, his hands raised toward heaven. How long he prayed he did not know. But at last a light broke through the dark into his spirit. He knew that his cry to Jesus had been answered!

Bill, from that moment, was not the same. He was a new being. He was not only changed morally and spiritually; God had healed him of his habit, and he gave up heroin without suffering the awesome withdrawal pains!

Bill went to Warner Southern College, a ministerial training school. Then he went to Trenton, New Jersey, to speak to churches on the drug problem. Unsatisfied with that task, he took the story of his deliverance to the streets and to the addicts there. Next he went to Camden, where he saw many persons turn to Christ.

This is not a make-believe

story; Bill is a real person.
He is one of the many who have come to know Christ in the spiritual wakening of our time. Unbelievers may say, "Your Bible speaks of mighty things happening long ago. How come they don't happen today?"

Things are happening today. The great Christian adventure did not end with the report in the Acts of the Apostles. The redemptive work of grace is as real as it was two thousand years ago. The living Spirit of truth is still here—now! God is still in business.

## Heeling Moment

here was a loud rumbling behind me as the engine died on the church bus—one that had already seen its best days. Once more the bus had made the usual Sunday morning rounds, picking up children from various places along the route.

Without looking back, I sensed a quiet movement at my side. Torn shoes, an oversized raincoat that had evidently belonged to an older brother or sister now provided cover from the rain for the tiny body housed inside.

We waited together for the other children to pass so we could hurry inside to get out of the the rain. The January wind whipped around the corner of the church, tearing recklessly at my scarf, which I was already clutching frantically, not wanting to appear inside looking as if I had just stepped out of the bathroom shower. The wind tore unmercifully at the child's unbrushed hair, which had no covering whatsoever.

I pushed my gloved hands deeper into my pockets to secure more warmth from the cold. Her little hands appeared stiff and almost blue. She held them clenched tightly together.

Again the wind rushed around the corner of the building, attacking the folks in the entrance like a monster tired of being shut up in a cage. Texas winters can be like that—not too cold, but howling winds grab at everything in sight.

It was good to finally get inside and feel the warmth of the building's heat on our hands and faces. Nothing ever competes with the security of a warm church, the laughter of fellowship, and the activity that goes on before that last bell rings.

I watched the child pause as she looked up and down the hall. I had seen her before, and I knew that her classroom was at the other end of the hall. Needing to give last-minute instructions to my own children, I walked down the hall along

with her. Did she like the Adam and Eve story one class was portraying on a colorful bulletin board near the door? Watching to see if she might give any reaction to the balloons bobbing around in one class displaying a sign labeled Church for Little People, I saw her blue eyes remain expressionless, as if they had seen nothing.

A sad feeling overcame me as I wondered who may or may not have watched this child leave

for Sunday school this morning.

I couldn't help remembering the pancakes, sausage, and juice my two had obviously enjoyed just prior to leaving home—of how they had bundled up in new raincoats given to them for Christmas presents. I could still see my daughter modeling around in a new dress just freshly made by a special friend. These thoughts haunted me.

Upon reaching her classroom, the child peered inside, receiving a welcoming smile from the busy teacher. While removing an almost drenched raincoat, she revealed a swollen, nasty-looking gash on the third finger of one of her tiny hands.

"How in the world did you get a cut like that?"

"From a knife."

"When?"

"This morning when I made my breakfast. I wasn't s'pose to wake my mommy or daddy because they had been out most of the night."

I stared at her for a moment, remembering something that I had recently read: "Teachers, take time to know your children." Had anyone tried to learn anything about this little girl? Suddenly I wanted to stop the clock and insist that time be still until I could think of the proper thing to do or say to this child. But time went on.

Outside the wind kept howling, the rain kept pelting down, and the few remaining leaves continued to skip across the yard as if looking for a dry spot to make their home.



Right or wrong, saint or sinner—you will live on somewhere forever. Of course, if you are right when your life on earth ends, you will spend your eternity with Christ. But what if you are not right then? What becomes of you if you die in your sins?

The Bible teaches that the unsaved go immediately into punishment. A stirring account of the death of a sinner was given by Christ Himself, and Luke records the Lord's words in the third book of the New Testament (Luke 16:19-31). You should turn to that chapter now and read the very sobering and searching account.

Note that two men died. One was poor, but right; and the other was rich, but wrong. One verse says that the rich man died, and the very next verse tells us that he was tormented in hell. Just as certain as people go to heaven if they live for God, just that certain others go to hell if they don't.

Of course, age does not matter. Young people, as well as old people, must eternally pay for their sins if they die outside of Christ.

"But," you say, "I thought Christ was full of compassion and love."

He is. However, He is also a Christ of judgment, and He will not excuse our unconfessed sins.

Therefore, if you die without the Lord Jesus, you will go to hell immediately. Then after the thousand-year reign of Christ here upon earth, you will appear before Him at the White Throne Judgment (see Revelation 20:11-15). At that time all of your sins, including your rejection of Christ, will be reviewed. You will then be cast into the lake of fire.

Horrible, you say? Yes. Unbearable; unthinkable? Nearly. Why not change your course today? Repent of your sins; accept Christ into your heart and thus escape the destiny of the unconverted. You don't have to go to hell. You are too fine for that.

Clipse Mr. Sunton





### SIMULIANEOUS DWIDE



REVIVAL AND MEMBERSHIP CARPASIS



There is Liberty in...

### REVIVAL

APRIL

TARGET

50,000 Conversions

April was the month for worldwide revival emphasis-a world in crisis needs a church in revival.



There is Liberty in...

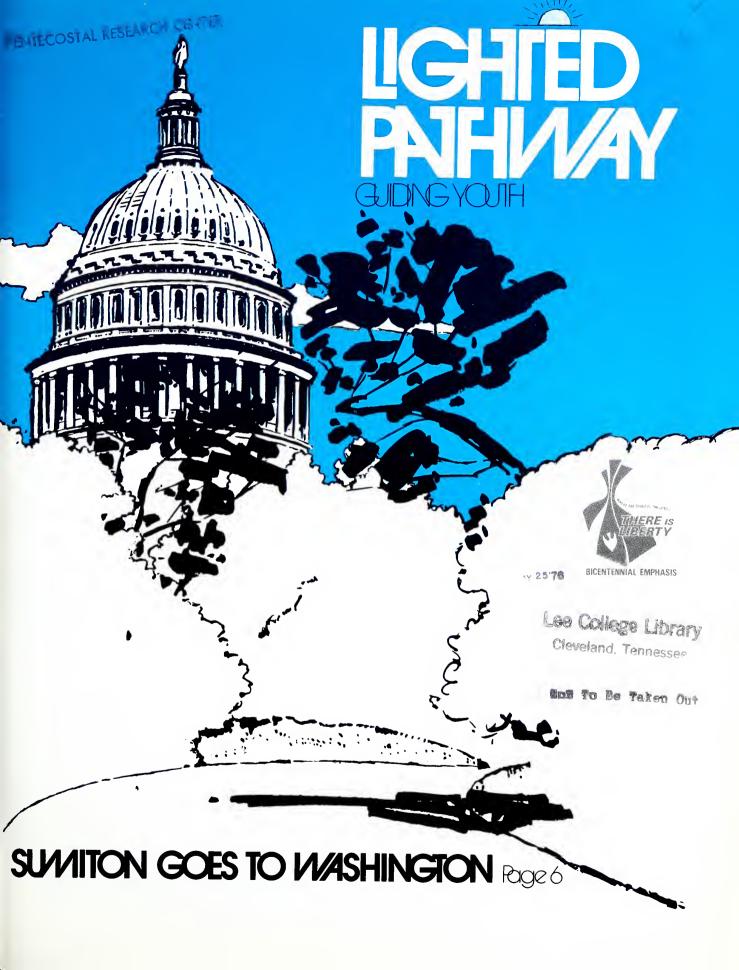
# THE **CHURCH**

Sunday, May 23, is the day on which worldwide opportunity will be given for church membership.

MAY

TARGET

25.000 New Members



# LIGHIED PAHVAY

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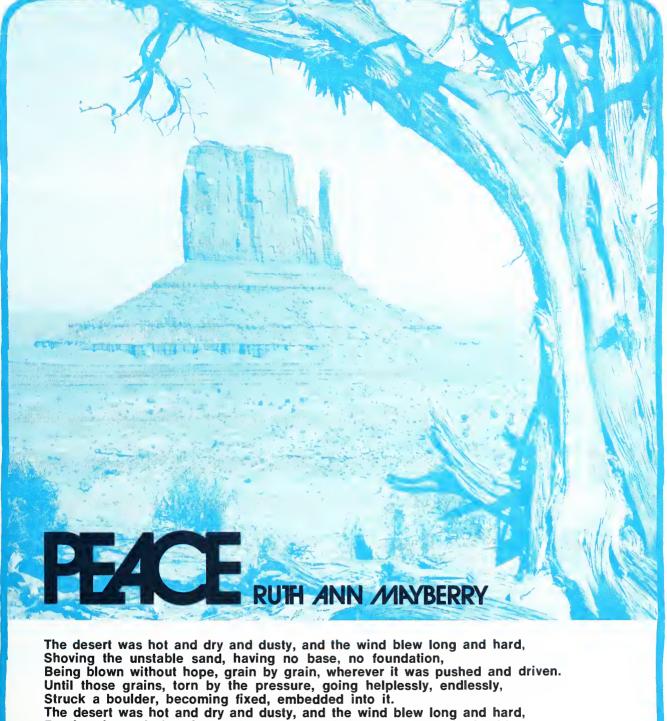
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The desert was hot and dry and dusty, and the wind blew long and hard, Shoving the unstable sand, having no base, no foundation, Being blown without hope, grain by grain, wherever it was pushed and driven. Until those grains, torn by the pressure, going helplessly, endlessly, Struck a boulder, becoming fixed, embedded into it.

The desert was hot and dry and dusty, and the wind blew long and hard, Beating the rock; but the sands were grounded, as strong as the boulder, Fixed into it, unmovable, invincible, no longer just dirt standing alone.

The same was I, of the dust of the earth, driven by the enemy, stalked by the devil, Running, running, never at rest, never at peace—'til face-to-face I encountered a Rock, entering the cleft that opened to me, encircling, Protecting and saving me, making me stand while the stormy world blew unmercifully. In the Rock of Ages I am at rest, at peace in Christ—forever.

Amen. Amen.

# THE MILITARYTHE DEVIL'S PLAYGRC

G. H. SWANSON



ohnny turned slowly on the barstool in the direction of the voice that had called him by his last name in typical military fashion. His eyes grew wide, and he began to stammer an apology as the man in a suit and tie introduced himself as the European representative of the Church of God.

Johnny was a Church of God preacher's son, and the military had given him the opportunity to shed the religious-social constraints of such a home—far away from anyone who knew him. He was giving the "other life" a fling.

While the separation from familiar social norms and guidelines was wreaking havor with Johnny's life, that same vacuum—separation from the familiar—was working in the lives of thousands of other military personnel to give them sensitivity to the Holy Spirit for the first time in their lives. Yes, the very atmosphere that worked for Johnny's spiritual death was working life in so many who had been dead in sin.

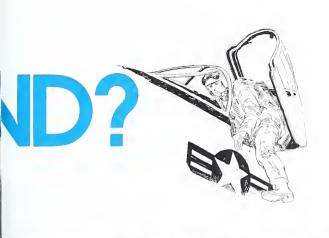
Remembering Johnny and the multitude of other military personnel reminds us that the military is

probably the most uniquely opportune social institution for ministering Christ to this generation. It litcrally permeates the entire Western world.

People in the military possess a special sense of security: Uncle Sam will take care of it all; just make it to payday. Such a sense of security makes it easier to take a chance on the unknown. The rigid religious norms of Mom and Dad are far away—back home. So, many of them feel they might as well check out some other religions. All of this adds up to a fantastic opportunity for young Christians who join the military to minister their faith to a broad cross section of their generation.

This statement is not an effort to generate such activity to prove a yet unproven theory of evangelism. The statement is not a hypothesis to be put to the test, but rather an observation of what is happening in the military right now.

And the historical implications are that such a plan was instituted by the Holy Spirit with the laborious persuasion of Peter to carry the gospel to Cornelius, the military captain. The Holy Spirit subsequently fell on the captain and his household,







(Upper left) Servicemen and guests worship Pentecostalstyle in a European servicemen's gathering. (Upper)
Stanley Brown, director of the Stuttgart Christian
Servicemen's Center, leads a workshop for servicemen.
(Lower) The Church of God has had excellent success in
ministering to servicemen. Pictured are ministers who
participated in a servicemen's retreat. They are, left to right,
Wallace Swilley, evangelist; R. Edwin King, European
servicemen's representative; Dr. Cecil B. Knight, executive
director of the Servicemen's Department of the Church of
God; Carl Richardson, radio minister of "Forward in Faith";
and Dr. J. Herbert Walker, superintendent of Europe.

opening the door of evangelism to the Gentile world.

Throughout history, Christians serving in the military have worked like leaven to influence large segments of society. It was in the military that the "fellowship" or "cell" concept of lay involvement developed. The concept involves the meeting of small groups of believers for spiritual edification and evangelism impetus while individual members of the group maintain their ties with the large, more formal religious institutions.

This concept made possible the recent rapid spread of the charismatic revival throughout the old-line denominations. But long before its civilian use was popularized, it was the Spirit-filled military Christian's way of maintaining his own spiritual strength and influencing his associates to come into Pentecost.

Today a grand-scale opportunity awaits Church of God youths who decide on a life of ministry in the military. About fifteen years ago the church became aware of the tremendous evangelism opportunities offcred by this vast military melting pot. We began to give assistance to the existing fellowships and to intensify the effort of evangelism.

Now there exists a great network of fellowships and evangelism centers covering the Western world. Probably the most vibrant of all our ministries, this great work is reaching hundreds with Christ's cure for drug addiction, alcoholism, and the many other sins of excess found in the world today.

The Reverend J. H. Walker, Jr., superintendent of Europe for the Church of God, recently released statistics that emphasize the reality that the military is indeed "white . . . to harvest" (John 4:35). In Germany it took thirty-two preached sermons to make one convert, in Italy it took twenty-six, in Spain twenty-five were required, in Belgium, twenty-two. But for every three sermons preached, an American serviceman in Europe was born again.

There is something about the military that makes evangelism easier. And yet many have continued so long under the misconception that the military is the devil's playground!

The stronger dominates. The brighter obscures the dim. The greater personality influences the lesser. Is it any wonder that the Holy Spirit draws to Himself those that He touches in the military? And many, stripped of the "back home" influences, are open to be touched.

Oh, by the way, some years after our encounter in that bar in Bavaria, I met Johnny at a General Assembly. I didn't remember him (it's hard for me to see well in dark bars), but he remembered me. He had concluded that the Lord's way was by far the better. Aside from the scars that remained from his folly, he was well and pursuing Christ's ministry.

n June 21 the Sumiton Church of God Youth Choir from Sumiton, Alabama, will roll off of the "church hill" in two churchowned trailway buses and a caravan of cars and vans. We will go to our nation's capitol to witness in song. This will be the highlight of our Bicentennial celebration.

This choir, consisting of eighty-five dedicated young people, is now excitedly planning their summer tour. Money is being raised for fuel, food, and lodging. No task is insurmountable, or so it seems to these young people. They simply set their goals and begin to work.

Much sacrifice and hard work is involved in the activities of this ehoir, but it is done in a spirit of love. The church loves them, as is evident by their financial and spiritual support. Weeks of preparation are highlighted with prayer and fasting. The dedicated members of the choir spend much time in prayer and waiting on the Lord in their Monday night prayer meetings. They realize that this is the foundation of any successful witnessing tour. Their leader, Mrs. Sarah Glover, also a dedicated lady, is committed to leading young people into a closer fellowship with Christ, and she too sees the need for a personal revival before the members can attempt to revive others.

The choir has traveled from the East to the West and from the North to the South proclaiming spiritual liberty to those who are discouraged and oppressed, who are afflicted with leprosy, or who must spend time behind bars in penal institutions. They have seen hardened sinners cleansed and drug addicts freed. They have witnessed divine miracles of healing as their message in song, "Where the Spirit of God is, there is liberty," has caused men's faith to touch God.



This will be the sixth annual tour for these fine young people since I became their pastor. Previous tours have taken them to Florida, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, California, Canada, and the Bahama Islands. The trip planned for June 21 will include Washington, D.C., Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The choir has traveled by bus, car, van, and chartered jet.

These evangelistic tours have not only blessed other persons, but they have done a great deal for the spiritual welfare of our youth. Their vision of lost humanity has been broadened. They have had great opportunities to witness about the saving grace of Jesus, and this has created within them a great desire to know Christ better for themselves. Their understanding of God's love is deepening as they develop a closeness among themselves. They are motivated to have more "stickability," and they actually become more dependable workers in the kingdom of God.

This year our youth want to

share in the Bicentennial celebration by proclaiming the good news of the one they love-Jesus! Our friend, U. S. Senator Tom Bevill of Alabama, has made arrangements for this choir to do just that as they sing on the Capitol steps from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on June 23. Just as the Liberty Bell rang out loud and clear to bring a message to the people two hundred years ago to "proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10), these young people will witness in song the same message to the generation today that true liberty comes only through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.

Their theme for 1976 is "Proclaiming Liberty for the Lost." The choir chose this theme because to them, love is more than a commandment: it is a formula for living. As we reflect on our past history and anticipate the soon return of our Lord, we are convinced that there is no greater message youth can have for mankind than this: "Jesus loves you."

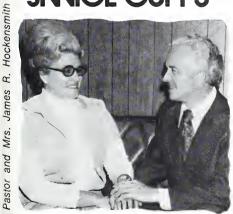
# SUMITON HOO GOES TO MASHINGTON

JAMES R.

Sumiton Youth Choir



### To God Be the Glory JANICE CUPPS



Sumiton, Alabama, a small town with a population of approximately 2,800, is located twenty-five miles northwest of Birmingham. The Church of God, situated on a hill on U.S. Highway 78, is a fortress to many travelers and a visible sign of God's grace to our community.

Since our postor, the Reverend James R. Hockensman, came to the Sumiton Church of God in September of 1970,

God has wrought many great things. All praise and glory belongs to Him. Recently we enlarged our boundaries by purchasing twelve additional acres, doubling the size of the parking lot and adding 4800 square feet of space for educational purposes. Some of this space will be used for our daily kindergarten, which we hope to begin next year.

During the past five years each department of the church has become more effective in its outreach. The Sunday school has grown from a yearly average of 324 to 546. In February of 1976 the church had the highest average ever to be attained—598. On Easter Sunday we had 902 present.

A portion of this growth has been attributed to the bus ministry which has been active for approximately three years. We began with one small bus, but now we have four in operation. Our outreach ministry includes services at a nursing home and a housing project each

Sunday morning. Follow-up visitation is conducted weekly by other auxiliaries in the church, which seems to be one reason for the consistent growth in this area.

The church has experienced a steady growth in membership; and finance has more than tripled. The body of believers, including our youth is experiencing a deeper move of the Spirit. One unique and almost unbelievable aspect of this church is that no salaried personnel except the pastor has been acquired in any facet of the church program.

These accomplishments have been made first of all, because of God's blessings and, secondly, because of well-prepared, dedicated, committed, Christian people who willingly sacrifice to work for God. We work together in a spirit of love and determination to see the work of God go forward and to help our church be at its best, both spiritually and financially.



Sumiton, Alabama, Church of God



# **IHERE**

#### NICKY CRUZ with PAUL CONN

f Jesus Christ is not alive, all Christians are fools. If Jesus Christ is not alive this

very minute, every minister in the world should be arrested for fraud.

If Jesus Christ is not alive and present right now in this room with you as you read this book, you should throw the book away without reading another word, because the entire book is a lie and you are wasting your time.

But Jesus is alive—literally, actually, genuinely alive and He is present with you wherever you are-right now, as you read these words. Stop for a moment and look up from the page. Look at the four walls that surround you. Whether you are sitting in a bedroom, a library, an automobile, a living room, or a jail cell, look at the place around you and make yourself realize that Iesus Christ of Nazareth is right now inside that room with you.

He is there!

As surely as you are there, He is there! It makes no difference whether you are a saint or a sinner, whether you pray five hours a day or have never prayed in your life, whether you feel that you know Jesus or not. He is still there in that room with you—alive, real—just as if you could see Him, talk to Him or reach out and touch Him.

Can you imagine what an impact it would have if this strange, powerful man should materialize before your eves and stand, in the flesh, in that place where you sit and read just now? It would numb your mind! It would shake you, stun you, fill you with awe and excitement. However impossible it seems, there is one thing in life you can be absolutely sure of: lesus Christ is there with you now, and the fact that you cannot see Him does not make it any less true.

You say, "Oh, sure, God is everywhere. He is in the trees and flowers, the winds that blow and all of nature. God is everywhere, so He must be in this cup of coffee and in this room."

No! That is not what I am saying!

When I tell you that Jesus is there with you, I do not mean it in the sense that God is everywhere. I am not talking about some vague, shadowy presence that spreads over all the world. I am not talking about a spirit, an idea, an atmosphere of good that hovers over you. I am talking about a man—a real, living, flesh-and-blood man who really existed, who had a beating heart and eyes that grew red and ached in the hot sun; a man with skin and bones and a back that hurt if He lifted something too heavy. I'm talking about a man with a voice that was strong and clear at times and soft and hoarse at other times—just like mine and yours. I'm talking about a man whose hands bulged with veins through which flowed real, warm, sticky blood and whose skin grew wet and sliek with sweat when He walked too fast or worked too hard. I'm talking about a man who hollered when He stepped with bare feet on a sandspur, who laughed long and hard at the jokes of His friends, who grew quiet and pensive when He saw His mother getting old and turning gray.

When I tell you Jesus is there with you, don't think I am talking about a spirit, a ghost or spook, or some mysterious something that hovers and swishes overhead like a holy-holy, hush-hush spirit. A man is there with you! I mean Jesus of Nazareth, who worked in a carpenter's shop and knew how it felt to jam a splinter under His fingernail. That man Jesus is there with you!

"Why is He there?" you ask. That's a good question.
Why would He possibly be interested in that place where you are? That kitchen, that classroom, that front porch, that hotel room, that den where you sit with kids' toys scattered over the floor and the carpet needing to be vacuumed. What would Jesus of Nazareth be doing in that place?

He is there because you are there!

That's right!

He knows you—by name, nickname, middle name—He knows you. And He loves you. He has been loving you since before you were old enough to say your first word. Since you toddled on fat little legs, those first baby steps, He has loved you and waited for you and watched you grow. He was there the first day you went off to school, and that day you locked yourself in the bathroom at home and cried, He was there, too. He followed you every step of the way, right through the hopscotch and all the running and chasing on the playground; and when you first started to date, hardly knowing what to do with yourself, He was there with you then, too.

And now you are grown, and you need help to put your life together. You are threatened by all of the evils of an evil world, and you are alone and vulnerable. Do you think this Jesus who has been with you so long would now grow distant and cold? would now pull back and forget how He bled for you and how He has loved you?

No way!

He is there! He is there wherever you are because He has followed *you* there, be-

cause He loves you! He has broken in and shown you who He is and has made you aware of Himself. And now you are no longer a little child. Now you can embrace Him and pull Him close to your bosom right there where you are.

He came a long way to be there with you now. He came past a million sorrows and through the agonies of death to be with you now. When they pulled His body off that cross two thousand years ago, it seemed that He had died. as any other man dies. But He had not. While they were anointing His limp, pale body with spices, wrapping it in a burial cloth and laying it in that cave tomb, Iesus was in the pit of hell, battling death and sin and defeating it once and for all. He was fighting Satan for power over you. And when He won the victory and stepped from that grave, it was almost as if He had stepped into a time machine and out again. Nothing could stop Him now! Nothing could bind Him now!

Death could not hold Him-He had faced it and whipped it. The grave could not bind Him—He had laid down in it and had come up fighting by the sheer power of the One who had shattered death's grip on Him. Sin could not touch Him-He had looked in its face, had spit in its eye, and declared Himself its conqueror. Time could not control Him-He had shown that He was not subject to time, that instead He was its master. Nothing could hold Him back; nothing could prevent Him from coming to every man, wherever he might be; and that is why He is there present with you right now.

To Jesus, you are no different from the people He met on

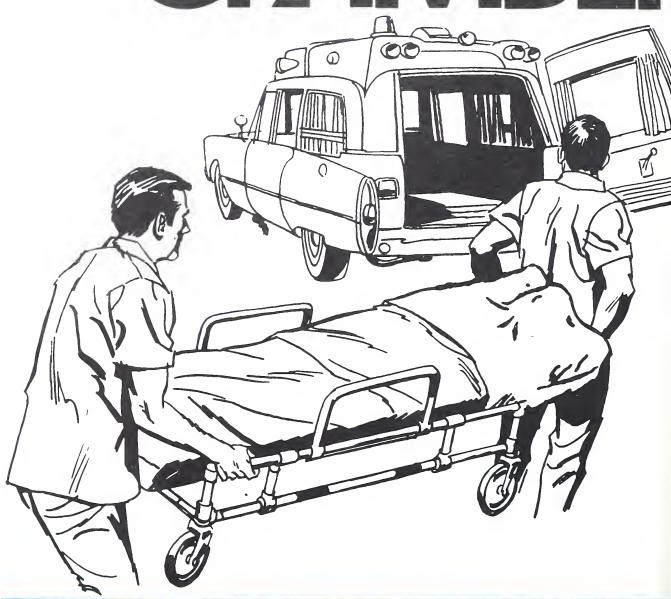
the roads of Judea, in the little towns, and by the seashore. He moved easily and naturally among them because He was one of them. He preached in the open air. He held the children in His lap. He touched the eves of the blind with gentle hands and made them see again. And with the same hands He whipped the money changers from the Temple. He spoke with a soft, firm voice to the adulterous woman lying in the dirt before Him, forgiving and blessing her. And with the same voice He lashed the Pharisees and hypocrites until they were stung and angry and could only slink away. He walked among the people and He loved them, and His anger never fell on the sincere, the openhearted, the bruised sinner

Continued on page 23



This article is a special pre-release excerpt from THE MAGNIFICENT THREE, a new book by Nicky Cruz (shown above at left) and Charles Paul Conn (right). The book is scheduled for official release June 14 by Fleming H. Revell Company, the nation's top publishers of religious books. Both Cruz and Conn have written earlier books that have reached national best-seller lists, and Revell is predicting that THE MAGNIFICENT THREE will also become a religious best-seller coast-tocoast. Cruz is a well-known youth evangelist, a former gang leader whose story is told in THE CROSS AND THE SWITCH-BLADE. Conn, an associate professor of psychology at Lee College, earlier collaborated with such well-known persons as Johnny Cash and Terry Bradshaw.

# IHE SAIN CHANBER



#### IR4 LEE SANDEFER

t seemed as if time crept along like a snail, weighted down with the shell of anxiety on its back. We had been standing along the banks of the lake for almost six hours. The divers had been futilely searching for the boy who had disappeared in the swift undercurrent of the lagoon for at least half that long.

As I turned to comfort my wife, they suddenly surfaced, moving ever so slowly towards the bank of the lake. I sensed something different and deliberate about their behavior. It was a moment till they called for the rescue boat and the blanket used to hide the removal of the body. The atmosphere was still and the silence was almost audible

as they engaged in their solemn task.

We watched, breathing a prayer of courage, our hearts bursting with the fear of reality. Then, like a knife with the swift, sure blow of sacrifice, reality struck as the rescue boat disappeared slowly around the far peninsula moving relentlessly to the silent ambulance that waited at the boat ramp. Jimmy was dead.

I doubt if there was any one event in my short history as a minister that affected my life as much as the death of Jimmy. He was a very strong and handsome young man that God had endowed with a wonderful sense of humor. In fourteen years of life, he had been blessed with an outgoing personality that had helped him gain a number of friends.

I thought of the times we had enjoyed together and remembered the day he had brought me a "possum" sandwich and the Halloween party in which he had portrayed the headless horseman for

the enjoyment of the young people.

I counted the services that he had attended. I thought of how he would enter the back door with a smile on his face, take his seat on the back row, and with the large arms of a country boy resting on the rear of the pew, he would listen. That memory brought to my heart the pangs of apprehension. There would be no other opportunity for him to occupy that last-row seat.

As the door to the funeral home closed slowly behind me, I noticed the abrupt ceasing of the brash clattering of a busy city street. Inside, the atmosphere of the funeral parlor produced reverent silence, broken only by the soft weeping of relatives as they sat in small clusters around the parlor.

Some were familiar, others were people I had not yet met. They had come, as had I, to pay homage to Jimmy. I silently whispered a prayer to God for guidance, and walked slowly around the room trying to offer comfort to the bereaved.

"God knows your sorrow, and He is concerned about your grief. God gave His Son to death also. He is able by His Spirit to heal the wounds of a broken heart." As the words fell from my lips, it seemed that they rolled limply off the hearts of the family and settled unnoticed amid the dark recesses of troubled minds.

My own emotions stirred within me as I looked into rose-colored eyes and stark, unreal faces. I realized that death touches every facet of life. Tenderly, my wife took my hand and gently led me

to the casket where Jimmy lay.

There he lay serene and quiet in the satin chamber. I looked at him for a long time. The darkness of his face made by imposing waters, the largeness of his body from the swelling, and the stillness of death surged into my mind with every passing moment. Suddenly, from somewhere beneath the composed outward crust of a pastor, tears began to roll down my cheek.

Again my heart felt an assault. I wanted to turn and hide the unwanted emotions, but there was not time, for the tears rolled like a flood. I realized that Jimmy's death brought to the front the fact that death can come at any time in life. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

Other young people would one day lie in the satin chamber just as Jimmy was lying. Did they know that Jesus loves them? Would they have an opportunity to give their lives in His service? Again, reality surrounded me. Had I taken for granted that young people would live to be grandmas and grandpas? Had I forgotten they need the touch of Jesus in their lives now?

My heart bled with tears of remorse as I thought about the young people of the church. I counted the times they had been absent from services and the times I had failed to impress the love of God into their silent hearts. "Dear God, never let me fail them."

These words have not left my heart. When I think of how much Jesus loves a soul and how short that life really can be, the experience I felt that day in the funeral home becomes vivid again. Jesus cares for each of us, so much so that He gave His life for us. Can we do less for Him?

My responsibility, I feel, is to win the lost and to help men make it into heaven. I pray that I may always remember the brevity of life. The age of the follower does not matter, but whether or not he is washed in the precious blood of Jesus. Finally, the burden of my heart is that I may never fail to tell young people about Jesus.

# THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT STUDY SIX

BY J. PALPH BREVER

Youth and Christian Education Director, Michigan

Purpose: To show that it is the privilege of every believer to personally receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit as did the disciples of Bible days

Introduction: In recent years the Pentccostal faith has captured the eyes and cars of the world and has been elevated to a position of prominence heretofore unknown. People of all ages and walks of life are expressing the profound interest in the Holy Spirit baptism as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. The dynamic, motivating force of the Pentecostal movement has heen, and continues to be, its emphasis upon the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit According to the Word of God, the experience referred to as the Holy Spirit baptism is the birthright of every believer who will pay the price of dedication and consecration.

(Read and study all Scripture references.)

#### I. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. A gift to be received (Acts 2:38; Luke 11:11-13) The Holy Spirit baptism is but one of the many gifts God offers to His children. IIc is, in fact, the Provider of "every good gift and every perfect gift" (James 1:17) and has never failed in His giving. Sadly, we have often failed in our receiving. The distribution of a gift requires action on the part of both the giver and the receiver. God offers the gift of the Spirit to you, Christian teenager. Will you receive it?
- B. A promise to be claimed (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 5) Many promises are given by God in His Word, but there is only one promise spoken of as "the promise" (see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4), giving it preeminence among all the "exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4). A promise never accepted is like a check never cashed. The promise of the Holy Spirit must be accepted in order to obtain its rich and rewarding blessings.
- C. A command to be obeyed (Ephcsians 5:18) The authoritative

command of Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit," indicates the importance God places upon the Holy Spirit baptism in your life. Too many Christians regard this experience as an option rather than a directive of God's Word. Consequently, they fall short of God's total plan for their life.

#### II. WHO CAN RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. Sinners eannot (John 14:17).
- B. Only those who have been born again (1 Corinthians 2:14; Acts 19:1-7) and who have been eleansed and sanetified (John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23) are eandidates for this experience.

#### III. HOW CAN ONE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

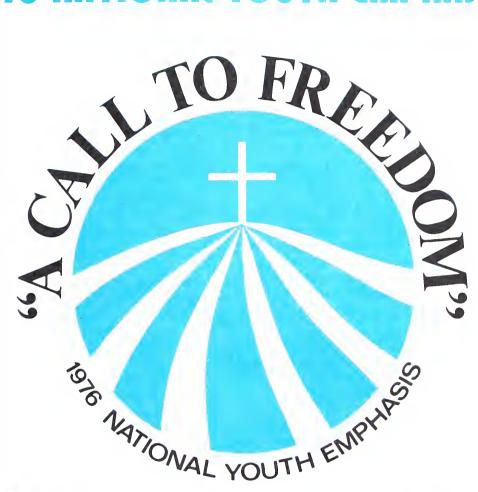
- A. Reeognize your need.
- B. Hunger and thirst for God's fullness (Matthew 5:6).
- C. Consecrate yourself (Romans 12:1). This involves total, absolute, uneonditional surrender.
- D. Obey (Acts 5:32).
- E. Ask (Matthew 7:7, 8).
- F. Believe (Hebrews 11:6).
- G. Receive (Acts 8:17; Acts 19:2).

#### ASSIGNMENT

(After carefully reading and studying all the Scripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise.)

- 1. The Holy Spirit baptism is a ..... to be received, a ..... to be claimed, and a ..... to be obeyed.
- 2. Give one Scripture reference that tells us we must repent of our sins before we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. Tell in your own words why you feel a Christian needs the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. What steps must be taken to receive this experience?

#### 1976 NATIONAL YOUTH EMPHASIS





Phase Four Planning Guide Jocal Church Emphasis Sunday, June 27, or Sunday, July 4

## **NATIONAL YOUTH EMPHAJIS**

#### Junday, June 27, or Junday, July 4

#### PRODUCTIVE PLANNING

This is the fourth in a series of five youth emphasis programs sponsored by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education during America's Bicentennial celebration. The theme is "A Call to Freedom."

The three previous programs—The Youth Watchnight Service, the Nationwide Tract Crusade, and the Statewide Freedom Rallies—have all received enthusiastic support. This emphasis, however, offers many unique and exciting possibilities of its own. This program is, in the first place, designed solely for the local church; and, in the second place, it is recommended for either June 27, the Sunday just prior to our nation's two-hundredth birthday, or for July 4, the birthday itself. Thousands of town and community planning projects will be culminating on these two Sundays. Ideally, this program should enable you and your young people to capitalize on the occasion and to present one of the most thrilling church services of the year.

Church of God youth love this nation as much as any group of young people anywhere. By and large, our members are faithful citizens, patriotic citizens, even though our traditional "separation of Church and State" philosophy may hamper our being flag wavers every week. We know, too, that this nation is itself a work of God's divine providence and we must not pass up the opportunity to say on behalf of the church, "Thank God for America!"

Say it clearly! Say it explicitly through "A Call to Freedom."

#### PROCEDURE FORMAT

#### COMMITTEES

Four committees should be appointed: (1) a program committee; (2) a publicity committee; (3) a luncheon committee; (4) a follow-up activities committee. Be sure to appoint them early and schedule an immediate joint meeting in order that all may have an overview of the full day's activities.

#### **DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEES**

#### 1. Program Committee:

 Should work closely with the pastor in planning the worship service.

- Should choose the appropriate music, choir or choirs, musicians, and patriotic readings.
- Should arrange the sending out of invitations, the seating of all special guests and the choosing of participants.
- Should invite a special guest, for example, a local politician to speak a few words either in the service or at the picnic or luncheon.

#### 2. Publicity Committee:

- Should acquaint themselves with community projects scheduled for the same day and with media advertisements aimed at promoting Bicentennial programs.
- Should prepare posters, bulletin inserts, and news releases; also a letter inviting families to a special "Call to Freedom" service.

#### 3. Luncheon Committee:

- Should arrange for a "freedom meal" at the church fellowship hall, an old-fashioned picnic at some park, or for accommodations at a restaurant.
- Should plan streamers, banners, or appropriate patriotic setting with flag and a youth band.

#### 4. Follow-up Activities Committee:

- Should assign ushers to distribute flag lapel buttons prior to Sunday school and the morning service.
- Should solicit young people from youth classes for the afternoon tract distribution program.
- Should choose tract target areas, assign group captains, and arrange for transportation so that the young people can participate in the distribution.

#### SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### Morning

9:45 a.m. Opening Assembly Classes

Brief Patriotic Sunday School Lesson (5 or 10 Minutes)

Sunday School Lesson

11:00 a.m. Regular Assembly

Scripture Reading

Prayer for the Nation, Pastor Choir, "God Bless America"

Special Song Offertory

Freedom Scripture Reading, Teen-

ager

Special Guest

Sermon

#### Afternoon

1:00 p.m. Meal

3:00 p.m. Tract Distribution

#### PROGRAM RESOURCES

#### **SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 33:1-12 Psalm 85 Proverbs 14:26-34 Titus 2:1-10; 3:1, 2

#### **VERSES AND QUOTATIONS**

#### Benjamin Franklin

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

#### Thomas Jefferson

"... its soul, its climate, its equality, liberty, laws, people, and manners. My God! how little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"

#### John F. Kennedy

"We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the world go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and better peace, proud of our ancient heritage-and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today, at home and around the world. . . . The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glory from that fire can truly light the world." (Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961).

#### Treasury of Inspiration

Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

(Inscription on the Statue of Liberty)

#### Our Heritage

Would that each true American, however great or small,

Might journey to that shrine of shrines, old Independence Hall.

And there within those sacred walls where those immortals met,

Renew our pledge to keep the faith, "Lest we forget—lest we forget."

Lest we forget that we must be The keepers of our liberty.

-James William Parks

#### Freedom

Freedom is a breath of air, Pine-scented, or salty like the sea; Freedom is a field new-plowed . . . Furrows of democracy!

Freedom is a forest, Trees tall and straight as men! Freedom is a printing press . . . The power of the pen!

Freedom is a country church, A cathedral's stately spire; Freedom is a spirit That can set the soul on fire!

Freedom is a man's birthright, A sacred, living rampart; The pulsebeat of humanity . . . The throb of a nation's heart!

-Clara Smith Reber

#### The Strife Is O'er

The strife is o'er, the battle done; The victory of life is won; The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed: Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped; He rises glorious from the dead: All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell; The bars from heaven's high portals fell: Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free, That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

(Latin Hymn: Translated by Francis Pott)

#### PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Patriotic materials to support the emphasis and activities for this special Sunday can be ordered from PROMOTION WITH RESULTS, P. O. Box 37366, Cincinnati, Ohio 45222. Some of the materials include the following items: plastic flag lapel pin, freedom papers, historical documents, flag pencil, Bicentennial pen, etc. A catalog will be mailed to you by the company upon request. Promotional materials are also available from Ronn Kerr Associates, 1205 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

Free Indeed

Scripture Reading: John 8:31-36

Scripture Text: John 8:36

Introduction: Only Jesus can give true freedom—from self, from sin, and from inherited bondage.

- I. ONLY THE TRUTH HAS POWER TO MAKE MEN FREE (vv. 31, 32).
  - A. Truth revealed in the Lord's words
  - B. Truth revealed to the Lord's faithful disciples
- II. SOME ARE IN BONDAGE AND DO NOT KNOW IT (vv. 33, 34).

- A. The Pharisees' defense
- B. The Lord's explanation
- III. JESUS CHRIST, THE SON, MAKES MEN TRULY FREE (v. 36).
  - A. Freedom through the Son
  - B. Scope of being "free indeed"

#### SERMON OUTLINE

Born Free

Text: Romans 8:1

Introduction: The best-selling book and movie entitled "Born Free," which depicted the life of a wild lion, is memorable for the theme, "One born free must remain free." Those born of the Spirit of Christ are born free and must remain free...

- I. FREE TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR
- II. FREE TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN ROLE
- III. FREE TO ESTABLISH YOUR OWN VALUES
- IV. FREE TO LIE DOWN IN PEACE
- V. FREE TO RISE UP IN SPIRITUAL POWER

Conclusion: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's book The Gulag Archipelago reminds us of the freedoms we enjoy and that we too often take for granted. In the USSR things are different. What one does, where one goes, the education one receives, the people one associates with—these are all controlled by the state. Those who dissent, often those merely suspected of dissenting, are imprisoned without trial.

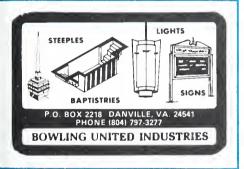
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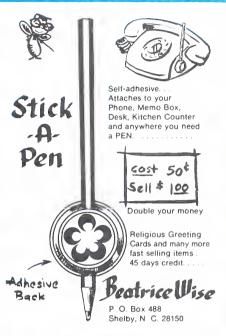
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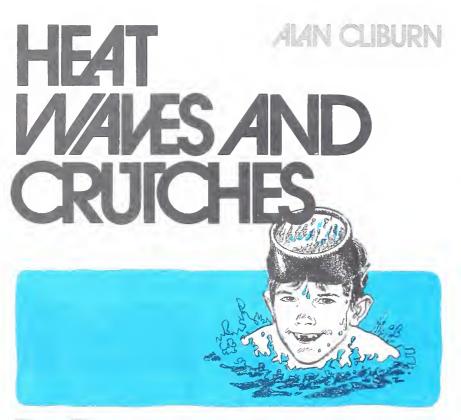
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Leonard Albert



an, you wouldn't believe the weird weather we had been having. Past ninety for nearly a week—and it wasn't even summer! By sixth period I'd be soaking wet and ready to pass out.

Joe Kelly came to my rescue just about every day. Of all my good buddies, he was the only one who had a swimming pool. He was also really generous.

"Come on over and cool off," he'd tell mc.

I wasn't the only one, either. About five of us started packing swimming trunks and towels with our books so we'd be ready to go right after school.

Besides me there were Pete, Ed, Gary, and Dave.

My mom would've flipped out if I had showed up with five friends every day for a week, but not Mrs. Kelly. "You boys are more than welcome," she would say with a big smile. "I hope the water won't be too cold for you."

The colder the better, as far as

we were concerned. It was really refreshing, and just thinking about Joe's pool kept me going through one sweltering day after another.

"Going over to Joe's?" I asked Gary after sixth period the first Thursday of the heat wave. It seemed like a dumb question, since we went every day, but I was just making conversation.

"No, I can't today," he replied. He didn't offer an explanation, and I didn't ask for one. Didn't matter to me. By the time I got to Joe's house and changed into my trunks, I had forgotten all about it.

"Hey, Dave—race you across the pool and back!" I yelled.

"You're on!" Dave agreed.

"I challenge the winner!" Pete announced.

Two minutes later I was lying on my towel on the deck, watching Dave and Pete. "Must've got a cramp," I explained to Joc.

"Sure," he answered, grinning.
"I get 'cm, too—when the other guy's a better swimmer!"

"Yeah, only you're faster than any of us," I reminded him.

"Gary gives me a pretty good workout," he replied.

"Wonder where hc went today."

"Think it was some church project."

I was going to ask what kind of church project would be scheduled for Thursday afternoon when Mrs. Kelly came out with a pitcher of ice-cold lemonade. Somehow that distracted me and I never got back to asking Joe about the project.

With school and homework and a part-time job on weekends, I didn't think about Gary and the mysterious project until the next Thursday. It was cooler that week, so we stopped going to Joe's house after school. Then on Thursday the temperature reached ninety-six—breaking an eighteen-year record for our city on that particular date—and Joe nodded when I shot him a desperate look during fifth period algebra.

"Tell the other guys they're welcome, too," he told me after class.

I ran into Pcte and Ed a couple minutes later. They were already planning to drop by Joe's house. "I'll see Dave next period," Pete added. "How about Gary?"

"Our lockers are right next to each other," I replied. "I normally bump into him after school."

"Yeah, but this is Thursday," Ed said. "I doubt if he can come. You know, because of the project."

There was no time to ask Ed about the project right then, because we only had six minutes to change classes and my last class was clear across campus. "See you guys over there!" I yelled as I hurried on.

I thought about Gary and the project a little bit during sixth period. He was a really nice guy —easygoing, good sense of humor, and he never tried to shove

religion down my throat, although he did try to make Christianity sound pretty interesting. Because of that, I had actually considered visiting his church a couple times. But I wasn't the type, I always reminded myself. I didn't need a "erutch," as my dad called it. I explained that to Gary, but he kept inviting me anyway.

I had to wonder why Gary hadn't told me about the project. I wouldn't have known a thing about it if it hadn't been for Joe, and then Ed. How eome everybody knew about it but me?

Gary had closed his loeker and was heading for the exit when I entered the main hall after sehool.

"Hey, Gary!" I yelled, hurrying toward him. "Wait a minute!"

He did, but his faee was flushed, his shirt was wct, and I could tell he felt just as miserable as I did.

"Hot, huh?" I asked.

He nodded.

"Good news—Joe invited us over to go swimming this afternoon!" I exclaimed. "Do you need a lift? I have to go home to pick up my trunks and towel, and your house is right—"

"Thanks, but I'm not going home," he interrupted. "And I can't go swimming today, either." He glaneed at his watch. "Look, I have to get going."

"Project?"

That stopped him and he frowned. "Yeah. How'd you know?"

"Joe and one of the other guys mentioned it. But I don't really know what you do, or why you do it."

He shrugged. "Why? Because I'm a Christian and there was a need."

"Then why aren't guys like Joe and Ed involved, too?" I wanted to know. "They go to your church."

"Maybe they are," he said. "These are individual projects, and anybody who felt he should

take one and had the time to handle it eould sign up."

"But you don't have to?"

"No, of course not. I really have to go now, Keith, or I'll be late. See you tomorrow."

He was gone before I realized that he hadn't told me what his project was. He had just told me why he was doing it. I was moderately impressed, but mostly I was puzzled.

There were two ways to get to my house from school. The usual way was down Jefferson to Atlantic and then up Riehmond. They were all four-lane boulevards and I could make pretty good time if I hit all green lights.

The other way was a shortcut through the poorer section of town. Some of those houses and apartment buildings were in really rotten shape and it was depressing enough to realize that they were there, much less drive past them.

But it was a good five minutes faster to go that way, and—due to the heat—I decided to get to my house and back to Joe's as soon as possible.

As I was starting through the worst part of the worst part, I noticed a familiar form hurrying up one of the side streets. The walk and frame could belong to nobody other than Gary Harland! In this section of town? I wondered, jamming on my brakes and backing up.

I parked my ear under a tree—one of the few in that part of town—and followed him on foot. It was kind of fun trailing him, but I wasn't doing it for fun—not in that kind of weather—I was just really curious.

Must have something to do with his project, I deeided. But what?

I followed him from a distance and it was obvious that he had no idea I was there. A couple times I almost called out to him. Driving through that part of

town was bad enough, but walking the streets was ten times worse.

Suddenly I became aware that my presence in the neighborhood had not gone unnoticed. Without turning around I knew several people were behind me. I can't quite describe the panic I felt at that moment. My car was at least two blocks away by then and I had absolutely no protection. I was so seared I actually prayed, probably for the first time.

Just as I was going to shout to Gary for help, he turned into a crummy-looking apartment building and disappeared. I had been perspiring enough because of the heat, but it was nothing eompared to the moisture that poured off my body right then.

Worst of all, I didn't know what to do. Getting back to the car was my primary objective, but reaching it seemed beyond hope at that point. I didn't know who was behind me—how many, their intentions, or anything. Yet I didn't feel like turning around to find out.

So I continued walking toward the apartment building where Gary had disappeared, fighting an almost overwhelming desire to run. The footsteps were still behind me.

Then a second-story window opened. "Keith, what are you doing around here?" a voice asked.

I glanced up and saw Gary at the window. Man, I was never so glad to see anybody in my whole life! "L-looking for you," I managed.

"Apartment 2-C," he told me. Then I did run, straight inside the building and up the stairs, three at a time. My feet and heart were making so much noise that I couldn't tell if I was still being followed or not.

"Hey, take it easy!" Gary warned as I reached the apartment. "Those stairs aren't too

Continued on page 24



#### MUSIC

Year	Vocal Sola	Instrumental Solo Keyboard	Instrumental Solo Nonkeyboard	Instrumental Ensemble	Vocal Ensemble	Choir
1962	Mary Ann Orndorff Arizona	Charles Navelle Virginia		(Sang Leading) Billie Roberts Florida		Soddy Tennessee
1964	Rita Coleman Ohio	Phillip Cook Alabama		(Song Leading) John Miller Flarida	Joy Bells North Carolina	Cleveland (South) Tennessee
1966	Randy Weeks Alabama	Sharon Abbott Delaware		Trambone Quartet Ft. Myers, Florida	Ft. Myers Tria Florida	Cleveland (North) Tennessee
1968	Cynthia Clements Georgia	Jan Pearson Florida		Sauth Lenoir Band North Carolina	Narth Cleveland Trio Tennessee	Fairborn Ohio
1970	Gay Pettyjohn Tennessee	Diane Jeffords Georgia	Edward Starns Georgia	Hialeah Brass Ensemble Florida	Mosinee Tria Wisconsin	Cleveland (Westmore) Tennessee
1972	Jimmy Phillips Tennessee	Phillip Thamas Florida	Trunicia Hamby Geargia	Pelzer Ensemble South Carolina	Lenoir City Tria Tennessee	Crichton Alabama
1974	Teresa Lefevers Alabama	Darrell Mitchell North Caralina	David Miles North Carolina	Maranatha Florida	Gap Hill Teen Tria South Carolina	Charleston (West Ashley) South Carolina

#### ART

Year	Photography	Painting	Textiles	Ceramics	Graphics	Sculpture
1972	Wally Ambrose Tennessee	Kathy Plawman Ohio	Jaan Thomas Tennessee	Judy Kelly Tennessee	Sue Raszler North <b>Da</b> kota	Crystal Hancock Sauth Carolina
1974	Debbie Benker Tennessee	Elaine Hammonds Hawaii	Anita Lint Michigan	Deanna Davidson Mantana	Carolyn Woodard Mississippi	Wallace Brown Indiana

#### WRITING

Year	Articles and Essays	Plays and Skits	Poetry
1974	Polly D´Anne Heil	Marcene Mantz	Patty Lynn Hall
	Texas	Flarida	Maryland

Special Note: This is a corrected list of Teen Talent winners. The list printed in an earlier issue of the LIGHTED PATHWAY omitted some names. We regret the error and are pleased to make this correction.—Editor.

#### MUSIC

1. General Assembly—Dallas, Texas, August 17, 1976.

2. Theater, Dallas Memorial Auditorium, Tuesday, August 17, 1:00 p.m. through Saturday, August 21. General Schedule:

Session 1 Tuesday, August 17—AFTERNOON 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Vocal Solo and Instrumental Solo

(Keyboard)

2 Tuesday, August 17-EVENING Session 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Vocal Solo and Instrumental Solo

(Keyboard)

3 Wednesday, August 18-MIDDAY Session 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Vocal Solo and Instrumental Solo (Nonkeyboard)

4 Wednesday, August 18—AFTER-Session NOON 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Vocal Solo and Instrumental Solo

(Nonkeyboard)

Session 5 Wednesday, August 18—EVENING 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble

Session 6 Thursday, August 19-MIDDAY 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble

Session August 19-AFTER-7 Thursday. NOON 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble

Session 8 Thursday, August 19-EVENING 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble

Session 9 Friday, August 20—AFTERNOON 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Choir

Session 10 Friday, August 20—EVENING 4:00 -6:00 p.m. Choir

Session 11 Saturday, August 21—AFTER-NOON 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. choir

3. Each choir will perform three selections (one required song and two free choices). The required song is "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

4. Judges will prepare a written commentary for each contestant or group of contestants sharing constructive comments and suggestions. Participants will be rated poor, fair, good, excellent, and superior.

5. Winners will be announced and trophies presented at the Teen Talent Awards Activity on Saturday

following the evening service.

1. The Teen Talent Art Center will be located adjacent to the theater, Dallas Memorial Auditorium. General Schedule: Tuesday through Wednesday —check in entries; Thursday morning—judging; Thursday evening through Saturday morning art on display; Saturday afternoon—art display open for purchasing entries.



# N TALEN OMPETITION

#### Preview and Checklist DYD D. CAREY,

ASSISTANT GENERAL DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2. Each participant will be given a written commentary setting forth evaluative comments, helps, and suggestions.

3. Awards will be presented at the Teen Talent Awards Activity on Saturday evening.

#### **CREATIVE WRITING**

- 1. National winners will be notified by mail by July
- 2. Winning manuscripts will be on display in the Teen Talent Art Center.
- 3. Each participant will be given a written commentary setting forth evaluative comments, helps, and suggestions.
- 4. Awards will be presented at the Teen Talent Awards Activity Saturday evening.

#### PARTICIPATION AND HOUSING

No contestant can compete in Teen Talent Competition before his thirteenth birthday or after his twentieth birthday. The age ruling includes all talent participants but does not apply to accompanists or choir directors in music competition.

All contestants should make their own housing arrangements by writing to the Church of God General Assembly, Housing Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, 1507 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75201.



# MY FAIHER'S GREATEST DAY

other, where are all those people going?" I asked watching the crowd passing by our house.

"They are going to see the prophet Jesus. They say He can heal the deaf, the blind, and the lame," she answered.

"If only I could go," said my father from his stretcher-bed where he was lying helpless. The tears rolled down his cheeks. His head and hands trembfed and he could not move his legs. That was the effect of the palsy, as his illness was called.

"I wish there was some way we could get you there, Caleb," my mother said, tears glistening in her soft brown eyes.

"Do you think our neighbors might help?" I asked. "Father's two friends and their big sons could carry him on his bed."

"Yes, Son, I think they would. Go ask them, Joshua," said Mother. I ran to their nearby houses and all four were more than glad to come.

While they helped Father into a clean robe, I helped Mother pack a lunch of olives, bread, cheese, and figs. So the seven of us, counting Zeb, the dog, set out to see the Prophet. The four men carried my father on his bed while my mother walked beside them talking to my father to buoy his spirits.

I carried the lunch basket with Zeb barking and leaping beside me and sometimes running ahead. It was a blue and white, golden shining day. A dove crooned softly in a nearby olive tree.

On the way people kept joining us. Some were lame and some were leading the blind, and women came out of their houses carrying siek children.

At last we saw a house with crowds of people around the door. There were crutches in a pile that lame people had left behind. As they went away they praised Jesus and thanked God. One man was laughing and crying and rubbing his eyes.

"I can see. I was blind but I am now cured by Jesus, the Messiah!" he shouted.

"That's the house," I cried.

People were crowded all around the door, trying to enter the house, but it was already filled to overflowing.

"To think we have come so far and will have to turn away!" said my father.

"We are not going back without seeing Jesus," said my mother resolutely.

"We'll find a way," said Enoch, the oldest of our four friends. The four of them looked the house over from door to roof.

That gave me an idea. "Couldn't we lower him through the roof?" I asked.

"Nonsense, Joshua!" said my mother severely. "This is no time for jokes."

"No, wait a minute," said Enoch. "Joshua may be right. We'll take the rope you use when you fold up the bcd. Obed," he said to his son, "you and I will climb up to the roof and see how it can be done."

They clambered up and removed part of the roof. They gave the signal. The end of the rope was thrown up to them. Then they hoisted the bed with my father tied on it.

The people watched in amazement.

Zeb and I managed to wriggle through the crowd and get inside.

"How dare they!" someone said. Another asked, "Is this some foolish trick?" The other people murmured and rumbled.

Jesus looked at my father, so sick and worried-looking. He looked at the kind friends who gently set the bed down, and I knew He saw their faith.

Jesus sat down beside my father and took his hand.

"Your sins are forgiven, Son," he said.

Some of the scribes were sitting together and looking on with disapproval. Jesus read their thoughts.

"You are thinking only God can forgive, but I ask you, is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Risc up and walk'? I can forgive too. I say, 'Rise up and walk and go to your home.'"

My father jumped up and said, "Thank you, Rabbi. Oh, I'm cured! The Messiah has cured my palsy! Glory to God and to His Son!"

The people stood silent a moment in amazement and then burst into cheers and praise for Jesus.

My father rolled up his bed and walked out of the house.

"Now I can hug my wife and son and pat my dog," Father said. We three ran to him.

He thanked his four friends and shook their hands. They were

getting ready to repair the roof.

"We'll have it done in no time," said Enoch. "By the way, you should thank Joshua for calling our attention to the roof as a means of getting you into the house."

"It was a clever idea," said Enoch's son Obed.

"I will never stop thanking God and praising Jesus," said my father.

As for mc, I knew I would never forget this day—the greatest day of my father's life, and the greatest for my mother and me too.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: "My Father's Greatest Day" is the Bible story of the man with the palsy (Mark, Chapter 2) retold by an imaginary character.

#### HE IS THERE! Continued from page 8

who sought to change. His anger was for the pompous and the proud who used the vocabulary of the church and the trust of the people for their own sinful gain.

Jesus never looked on a crippled man or a diseased child without concern and compassion. He never met a messed-up, confused person without reaching out to help. He never talked to a sinner who was tired of his sins without forgiving him and making him clean. He never met a man or a woman He didn't love.

Are we any different from those people of Jesus' day?

Do we mean any less to lesus than they did?

Are our cancers less fatal than theirs? Is our blindness less dark? Is our anxiety and sickness of heart less painful? Is our sin less terrible, our loneliness less real? When someone we love dics, is our grief less numbing and unbearable?

Of course not.

If you trade your suit for a robe, your automobile for a donkcy, your language for that of the ancient East, if you strip yourself down to what is really you, you are not different from any man who Jesus saw and touched and loved in Judea so long ago. And Jesus knows that. So Hc comes to you, there where you are, and He does for you all the things He did for them when He was on the earth as a carpenter's son.

He wants to forgive you of your sin. He wants to heal you of your sickness. He wants to keep you from anxiety and fear and guilt. He wants to free you from every kind of bondage. And He is there with you now to do it. He is a wonderful, magnificent Savior!

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#### HEAT WAVES AND CRUTCHES (Continued from page 19)

solid, you know. What can I do for you?"

I frowned. "Do? What do you mean?"

"You said you were looking for me. I figured it must be kind of important."

Quickly I explained what had happened and why I was stranded in the middle of that section of town instead of splashing around in Joe's pool. "If you hadn't stuck your head out the window when you did—"

"And you're the guy who doesn't need a 'crutch' to get through life?" he questioned, recalling an earlier conversation.

"Look, this is no religious mumbo jumbo," I replied. "This was real danger!"

"Come with me," Gary instructed. Then he led me through the apartment and into a bedroom overlooking the street. "There's your 'danger,' Keith."

I stared in disbelief at a group of children playing on the sidewalk below. "Those kids? They were the ones following me?"

He nodded. "This may be a poor section, but it's not that bad—at least not during the day."

"Gary!" an old voice shrieked suddenly.

"Who was that?" I wanted to know.

"Mrs. Wallace," he told me. "Coming!"

"Mrs. Wallace? But I thought you were probably coming in here for your project," I began.

"Right. Mrs. Wallace is my project. I do her housekeeping and shopping, stuff like that. I even do the dishes. She's kind of old and doesn't get around much anymore. Want to meet her?"

"Gary!" the voice called again.
"Uh, no, I guess not," I decided. At any other time I really would've given him a hard time.

Doing housework and shopping for an old lady! But it didn't

# A SUMMER

# LISABETH J. HAIL

hink back to your childhood. Who stands ten feet tall in robes of light for you? What older person, teen or adult, brought a rainbow into your life? Did someone release to life the real

you—the you that you wanted to be?

With summer so near, our thoughts are predictable—Fun in the sun. Beaches. Mountains. New jobs. Or old jobs with a new slant. Vacations. Travel. Relaxation.

How about something new this summer? Something you'll never forget? How about being someone else's bringer of rainbows?

In almost every town and city, there are people who need you—you, personally. You may not know them yet. Becoming acquainted may be one of the brightest spots in your summer.

Who are they? Young children with working parents. Appealing youngsters who could go two ways—upward, with someone who really cares; or downhill, left to play on the streets and empty lots.

How do you find the right one for you?

seem too funny at that particular moment.

"Uh, you won't tell the guys that I was scared silly by a bunch of elementary school kids, will you?" I asked as I headed for the door.

"Not if you'll keep my project quiet," Gary replied. "It's really more the kind of thing a girl should be doing, but no girl would agree to come to this neighborhood. Can't blame them, I guess. Well, I'd better get to work. Have a sink full of dirty dishes to do!"

I left Gary and started down the stairs. It almost felt cool outside after being inside that ovenlike apartment. And he was going to wash dishes! I wouldn't do them at home even in cool weather. There were many differences between Gary and me; I had known that for a long time. But I never really thought about them very much until that one particular afternoon.

Did Christianity—the relationship with Jesus Christ he was always talking about—make the difference? Was it more than just a "crutch," which implies weakness and lack of self-confidence? And even if it was a crutch, was there really anything wrong with having one? Could believing in a Man who lived so long ago have any relevance here and now?

I didn't know the answers, but as I walked back to my car I was determined to find them. Maybe Gary would be willing to take on another project—me.

# ROTHER



First, be sure you really want a young companion this summer. Think back to the first questions we asked you. Do you really care enough to want to be a light-bringer? It isn't always easy. There are times when you'll want to get out of it. If you take on a youngster for even a couple of hours a day, it does tie you down. But the rewards are great. Make the project a matter of prayer, asking the Lord to guide you.

The right one for you may be one the same age as a younger brother or sister you already have. You can take the two of them on outings, to ball games, to parks to play, or on a swimming trip. Or it may be a much younger child, if you have the time to give.

So how do you find the right one? Ask. Ask the pastor of your church. If there are children needing a substitute brother or sister for the summer, he'll know. Or call your city's social services or family agencies. They go by many titles. They'll want to know a good bit about you—how dependable you are; what other people think of you. Be ready with a letter or two

from your teachers at school, from friends of the family, from your family doctor or a scoutmaster. If you're the right kind yourself, you'll find many people ready to youch for you.

Once you have located a child who appeals to you, what's next? Be sure you have your family's backing in this enterprise. You may need Dad to drive you to the beach sometime, or Mother to drop you off at the ball park. If you already have your own car, that's no problem; but you still need to have things clear in your own home as to when you will be out and when you'll be home.

When you go to meet your new adopted brother or sister, be patient. Be accepting of differences between you. If there is a color difference, you still may be the first bright spot in the child's life. You can provide experiences, remember, that no one but you could give—just because you are you.

Must you have a lot of money? No. True, there is usually no monetary pay for this kind of work. But God has been known to bless highly those who work for Him! But mostly, it will be a matter of your giving your time. Your city probably has museums, parks, and city recreation programs. Secure permission from the parents of the child to take him to church regularly.

Your own imagination can supply many more interesting activities. Again, just because you are you, you have something unique to give. The youngster might help you work at a hobby.

What have you to gain? A summer you'll never forget. A younger brother or sister to whom you'll stand ten feet tall in robes of light. A new insight as to what life is really all about. It's one thing to hold up two fingers and say, "Peace." It's another to get out there and do something to help bring it about.

And a last word: you might want to share this adventure with one or two of your best friends. Group outings, especially if kept small, can be extra special. Picnics of six people instead of two can include ball-playing, sand-castling, sandwich-devouring, laughter-painted afternoons.

Keep a little time just for you and the little one, though. You might just be the only person who will really listen, really care about his small doings.

Good luck! And enjoy yourself.



#### A TRUE STORY

hile working my way through college, I landed a job as the weekend maintenance man in a condominium for senior citizens. The pay was only fair, but I had ample time to study; and occasionally, for minor repairs in someone's apartment, I would receive a small tip.

One bright Saturday morning a woman I'll call Mrs. Smith phoned, urgently requesting a lightbulb. I sighed, slapped my book shut, swung my legs off the desk, and, bulb in hand, trudged upstairs.

A pale, haggard woman answered the door, her robe clutched against her throat. Her hair, a deep silver, was matted; her eyes seemed a little wild. Trembling, she showed me to the bedroom, which was strewn with bedelothes and rumpled towels. The bed was

#### GEORGE GUIHRIDGE

unmade. Beside it a floor lamp had fallen; glass sparkled in the sunlight.

She tried to explain the mess. "I've been very ill," she said, managing a weak smile.

"Yes, ma'am," I replied, and, after righting the lamp, stooped to pick up the glass. When I looked up again she was standing before me, holding an open Bible. She seemed not to be looking at me, but *through* me. Her cyes were filled with fear and a certain awe.

"I had a terrible night last night," she said. Her lip was quivering, and she spoke rapidly, as though she was afraid I might leave before she finished her story. "When I began feeling ill I took my Bible and went to bed, hoping to find comfort in the Word. I was reading about the ark, and I—I must have fallen asleep. I had this strange dream.

I was alone in a huge, empty room, and above me-as if on a chandelier, except they were in a single row—were forty candles. I couldn't take my eves off them. And then a wind came up—a swirling wind, like a vapor. You could see it! It whipped my dress, and one by one the candles went out. Then there was only onc large candle left, and it started flickering. I tried to keep it from going out like the others. I reached up to protect it with my hands. But I couldn't reach high enough! Finally I lunged for it! And—well, I knocked over the lamp."

Her face was intense; her knuckles were white where she clutched her robe; she turned toward the window. For a moment there was silence. Stunned and slightly embarrassed by her outburst of emotion, I began again to pick up the glass.

But on a strictly rational level it was easy to see what had happened. Having been reading about the ark just before falling asleep, she had associated the "forty days and forty nights" (Genesis 7:4) with the lamp—the eandle—glowing above her.

"The Lord was speaking to me," she said, still looking out the window. "I know you must think I'm just a senile old woman, but He was telling me something. And I don't know what it was! For the life of me I don't know." Her voice was wavering. For an instant I thought she would cry. "All I know is that I shouldn't have let that final eandle go out!"

"But the lamp," I said, "— that eouldn't be helped."

"Sometimes the Lord speaks to us in strange ways," she said.

And then she said nothing. She suddenly turned toward the bureau and dug in her purse for a dollar to cover the cost of the bulb and a tip for myself. I thanked her and left.

When I arrived at work the next morning the receptionist in the main lobby handed me a key. "It's for Mrs. Smith's apartment," she said. "They want you to take the dolly up and remove some boxes."

"Boxes?" I asked.

"Some of Mrs. Smith's things. Her relatives are coming to pick them up. You see, she died in her sleep last night."

I stared blankly at the receptionist. She started explaining how the nurse, knowing Mrs. Smith was ill, had eheeked on her during the night.

But while the receptionist was in mid-sentence, I turned and walked away, lost in thought. Back in the maintenance office I looked at the erisp dollar bill Mrs. Smith had given me.

It is the strangest and most meaningful tip I've ever received.

#### **Desk of the Editor**

What do you do when life pushes you against a wall? or when circumstances snap at your heels and you are backed into a corner and cannot move?

Do you pray to die as did Elijah? Do you throw up your hands and quit like Demas? Or do you turn to God?

Abandoning ourselves to God's care in times of severe trials is not always easy. We are so earthbound it is sometimes difficult to look heavenward—to see God through the smog.

Nonetheless, God is always present and He knows about our difficulties. He knows when a person close to us is desperately ill. He knows when a loved one slips away, leaving us alone, empty, forsaken. Praised be God, He knows.

Besides, He cares. He cares even more than we can comprehend. He cares deeply about our frustrations, our disappointments, our sorrows.

Lyne M. Buston

Thankfully, He leads. He sometimes takes us by the hand and leads us from our dilemma to green pastures and still waters. Or, He may simply whisper to our hearts, "This is the way, walk ye in it" or "Be still and know that I am God."

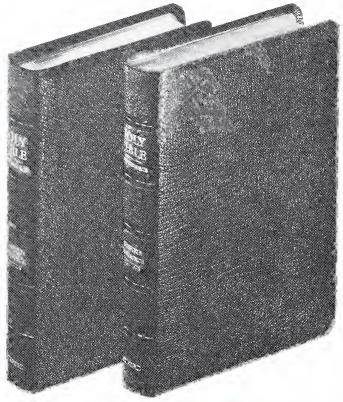
Therefore, friend, when life assails, turn to God. He knows, He cares, and He leads. Follow Him.



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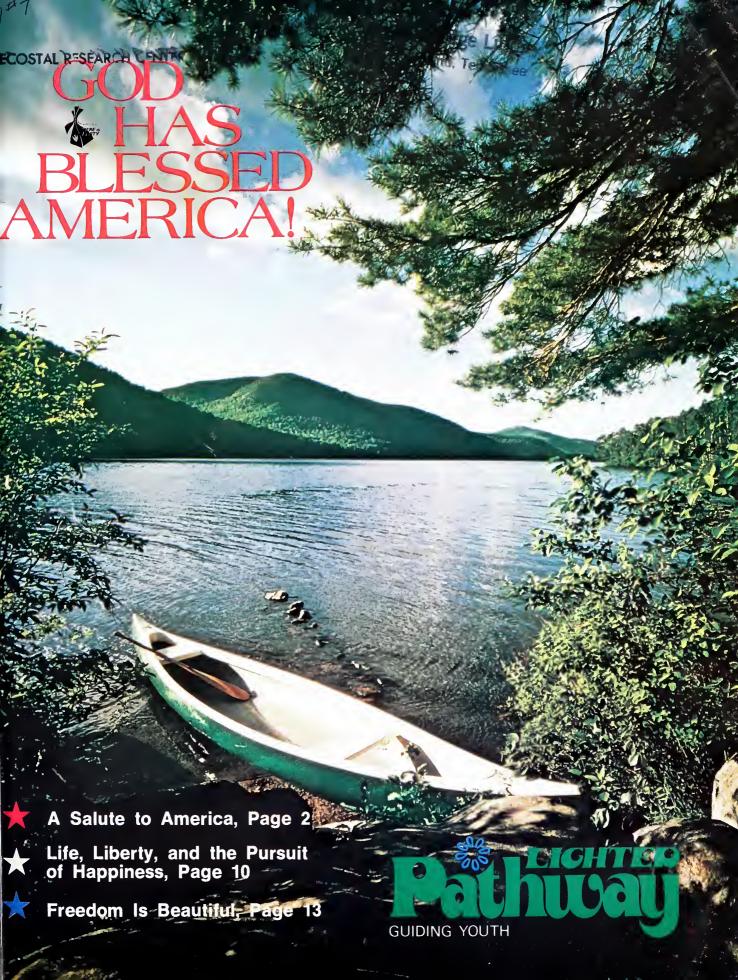
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s Christian young people, we are proud of our heritage as American citizens: and we look toward the horizon of tomorrow with desire and confidence. Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving to God for the principles of freedom upon which our nation was built and for the persons who developed and defended these principles. On the 200th birthday of our country, we salute America with pride and respect for . . .

FREEDOM OF ACTION: for the courage of our Founding Fathers who had a standard of freedom based on equal and exact justice for all men and who proclaimed their standard of freedom fearlessly, won it dearly, and defended it bravely. We honor them for their vigilance, commitment, and hard work. We pledge ourselves to PRACTICE the right of freedom of action by helping to shape the future.

FREEDOM OF AD-VANCEMENT: for the right to work toward the fulfillment of personal goals relating to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We respect the Constitution and the provisions that allow us to be responsible and that guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom from want and fear. We pledge ourselves to PROTECT the right of freedom of advancement by working diligently to achieve worthy goals.

FREEDOM OF ASSUR-ANCE: for the privilege of every American citizen to acquire a faith that gives life direction, meaning, hope, and purpose. This provides the foundation to live in submission to Christ, to live in the power of the Spirit, to live in love for others, and to live in concern for our nation. We pledge ourselves to PERPETUATE the freedom of assurance by sharing our faith.

-Floyd D. Carey

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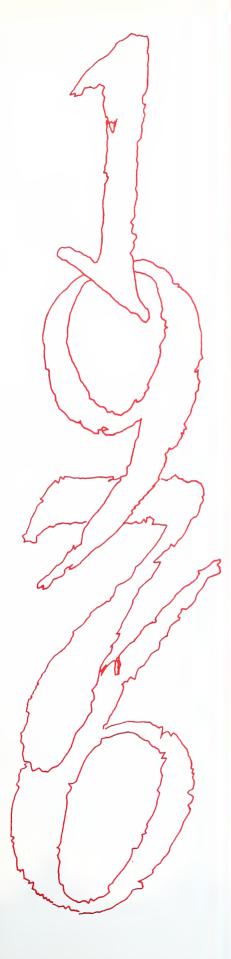
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MEMBER COOL EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# Pollution of the

#### BY RUSSELL J. FORNWALT

any communities today are greatly concerned about air and water pollution, and rightly so, because foul air and filthy streams are a menace to health. States and citics are spending millions to check the smoke, smog, and dust in the air that people breathe. They are also taking steps to stop the dumping of waste into rivers that provide water for drinking and for the wholesome recreation of swimming, fishing, and boating.

But pollution of air and water is a small thing compared with the pollution of man's mind that is so rampant today. Along with the widespread traffic in drugs and alcohol, our moral atmosphere and waters are being corrupted by lewd and lurid literature. The great menace now is the pornographic garbage being dumped into America's moral streams. In the view of some authorities on the current social scene, pornography and addiction to narcotics or intoxicating beverages are closely related. One closely precedes or follows the other.

The adolescent or the adult who has had a good "fix" or several giant-sized shots at the bar is all primed for pornography. Similarly, the individual who has just devoured a volume or two of nudity or sexual perversion is an easy mark for the pusher of "coke" or heroin or the purveyor of booze.

In a year's time, nearly four billion copies of pornographic publications—enough to fill to

overflowing five Empire State Buildings—are purchased by adults and teenagers.

Drug and drink consumption in this country are also reported to be at an all-time high. Alcoholism among high school and college students is said to be increasing at an alarming and dangerous rate. This is the kind of pollution the professional educators, sociologists, church leaders, and other authorities are starting to worry about.

It is also reported that the sale of salacious magazines is twenty times that of religious publications—Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant combined. In fact, many religious periodicals have had to suspend publication in recent years.

The National Citizens for Decent Literature says that 75 to 90 percent of all pornographic literature ends up in the hands, and therefore in the minds, of children. The harm that can accrue from a mixture of such literature and LSD or liquor is almost too horrible to even contemplate.

Just what is pornography? According to Webster, it is "writings, pictures, etc., intended to arouse sexual desire." So popular is the sordid stuff that it takes close to one thousand distributors to satisfy the popular hunger for it.

Most of the motion picture houses in New York City's Times Square area, and in similar sections of other large cities, feature films on nudity and sexual deviation exclusively. The bookstores and newsstands in the district sell the worst in trash at the highest of prices. Long lines wait to

# Moral Waters

see "peep shows," specializing in perversions. While all this is in progress, the pushers are peddling their pills to pollute the moral atmosphere even further.

The scum publishers and sellers, of course, do not acknowledge the real purpose of their prurient products. They employ all kinds of deception to give their degrading wares a mask of respectability. Some publishers even have the audacity to claim that their periodicals, jam-packed with page after page of nudity and raw sex, are designed to appeal to the aesthetic sense and to connoisseurs of fine art.

Other publishers attempt to pawn off their pornography as marriage manuals. An increasing number of smut periodicals are designed to attract the attention of teenage boys and young men interested in muscle-building, body culture, and weight lifting.

As a matter of fact, it is not only the "girlie" magazines that are prominently displayed on newsstands. Right out in front, for all to see, are publications featuring transvestism, homosexuality, lesbianism, sadism, masochism, and other perversions. Their publishers would have the public believe that such trash is either educational or artistic or both.

But let us not be naive. Pornography is serving no legitimate purpose. It is being written, produced, sold, and advertised with but a single idea in mind—to arouse sexual desire.

While one cannot admire the pornography producers for their moral principles, when it comes to ingenuity and cleverness they certainly are superb. If they were to use their photographic, engraving, advertising, and journalistic skills in more wholesome pursuits, they could be a tremendous force for good.

The pornography industry does not, of course, confine itself to gutter-type magazines. It is also busy producing so-called "art" films for stag or bachelor parties, salacious desk and wall calendars for the pretentious "he-man," and so-called physiology books. Also, commercial motion pictures are not at all free from the taint of pornography.

The worst pollution in America, then, is not the gasoline fumes in the air or the waste in the waters. It is the dirty books, the filthy films, and the immoral magazines. Directly or indirectly, according to crime authorities, the reading and viewing of pornography leads to an increase of illegitimacy, venereal disease (especially among teenagers), and major crimes such as murder and rape.

Why does the pornography industry continue to grow by leaps and bounds, thus polluting the minds of greater numbers of youth? What can be done about this ocean of obscenity that is menacing and even threatening to break down our whole system of values?

An anti-pollution program does not begin in the

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

White House, in some governor's office, or in a large city's Department of Ecology. It begins in the hearts and minds of parents. It begins with wholesome and positive attitudes by youths toward sex in the home. It starts with the recognition that sex is something divinc and sublime, something normal, natural, and necessary. Sex is the god-given power for the perpetuation of mankind and for the expression of love within marriage.

In homes where sex is treated with frankness and dignity, pornography should have little, if any, appeal to adolescent boys and girls. On the other hand, parents who adopt a hush-hush policy may unwittingly become the very welcome allies of the

purveyors of obscenity.

Legislation can also help. But all too often laws only drive pornography under the counter, into the backroom of a bookstore, or to the black market. Courts, however, reluctantly, often side with publishers and peddlers of pornography because of such issues as freedom of press and speech and because of fear of censorship. Thus, the enforcement of laws in this area is particularly difficult.

Publishers are not about to admit openly that their filth is pornography. They insist on calling it art, marriage guidance, sex instruction, physical culture, body-building, or employment advice for would-be male models. It is not easy for prosecuting attorncys to win convictions because of the many technicalities in our laws.

Legislative and judicial experts actually are at a loss when it comes to stamping out pornography. Legally, there are some fine lines of distinction between the slime and the sublime, between the obscene and the clean, between the venomous and the virtuous.

Perhaps we need a law similar to one which governs the cigarette industry. The pornographer should be required to print the following warning on his warcs—"This may be injurious to your mental health or to that of your child."

There are several things, however, that we as individuals can do to help purify the moral atmosphere and clear the muddied waters. We can boycott newsstands and bookstores that sell pornography. We can ask newsdealers and store owners whom we know personally to stop selling questionable magazines and books.

But we must do more than boycott and protest. Our anti-pollution program must have positive aspects. Among other things, we can subscribe to church, health, and worthwhile secular magazines. We can encourage Sunday school and church attendance and Bible study. We can provide wholesome social activities, recreation, and sports.

If we really are concerned, we can do something about pornography and the pollution of our moral waters. But it will take alert and unremitting effort to stem the ever-rising tide of indecency, and prevent an entire generation from going completely to "L"—lewdness, liquor, and LSD.

omething had deeply impressed my little four-year-old daughter during Sunday school. It had lingered with her all through the day.

Just before preparing for bed we gathered for our family devotional period. We usually start with the reading of God's Word; but this time, before even having a chance to open the Bible, Mellissa looked at us with an expression of shy sincerity upon her baby face and said, "I want to be a Christian. Christians go to heaven with Jesus."

Not knowing quite how to express my joy and concern about her interest in spiritual things, I hugged her close to me.

That evening her father and I carefully explained that Christ loved her and wanted to save her. We were proud parents as she prayed the prayer of repentance.

All through the week Mellissa would turn to me for assurance that she was indeed a Christian. When we picked her up at the baby-sitter's she would climb into the back seat and, hugging my neck, would ask, "I'm a Christian, ain't I Mama?" As I washed dishes she would wander in beside me and say, "I'm a Christian, ain't I Mama?"

After she was given a reassuring smile and an encouraging word she seemed well-satisfied and content to go on with her playing and living in the world of a four-year-old Christian.

Once, during that first week she was trying to learn her Golden Text for the next Sunday's lesson. She stumbled around with the words, mixing them up until she became discouraged. She threw the paper

# BY LUGLENDA STIDAM

# I'm a Christian Ain't I?



Mellissa (above) and her parents attend the Fairview Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee.

down indignantly and exclaimed, "I can't say the verse. I don't want to be a Christian."

My heart went out to the little pouty girl with defeat written across her face. "Missy, God still loves you. He'll help you to learn your Bible verse." All was quiet for a moment, then Mellissa looked up at me, tears filling her brown eyes and slowly

sliding down one cheek, I do want to be a Christian, Mama. I'm—I'm sorry."

Sunday morning Mellissa said her Bible verse. There's a little gold star beside her name on the chart as evidence of God's helping power in a four-year-old's life.

As I look back on Mellissa's first few weeks as a Christian, I can't help thinking of my own first few Christian experiences. There were many times when I needed someone around to reassure me that I was indeed a Christian. And yes, there were times when I was all mixed-up and defeated by Satan. I, too, stuck out my lip pouting, as I pondered the difficulties of following Christ.

That was when some kindly old saint would say to me, "Luglenda, God still loves you. God will help you." And somehow God always did. He cleared a path for me to walk right through without stumbling and falling. But, would I have known this if it had not been for that older sister in the Lord telling me of God's merciful love for me, even though I had failed Him?

Perhaps you met a new convert at your church service last Sunday. Will you be around when he asks, "I am a Christian, ain't I?" Or will he be left to face the rough spots alone? Will you be there if he should stumble or fall and declare, "I don't want to be a Christian"? Will you tell him that God still loves him and that He will help him through the mixed-up circumstances of life? Or will he be left alone to endure the heavy burden of defeat?

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).



# FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

GYIVI SHOES

BY BONNIE CICHOWLAS

folded the newspaper sheet in half, folded it again and again. I was particular.

Do you know what I was making? It was a paper bedroom slipper, tailored for people like yourself, but who were ill, and made by me—a Red Cross Volunteen. I was giving my time by helping the sick in a hospital.

Are you tired of reading about youths in rebellion in today's headlines? If you, like myself, believe in youth and realize that there are fulfilling jobs which they can do that will help them find direction and meaning in their lives, then you will be interested in this volunteer work that I, a fifteen-year-old, find most challenging.

If you were a patient in a hospital, you would keenly appreciate the work of a volunteer. Suppose you are lying in bed, waiting long days for a fracture to mend, and someone asks, "Can I get you some fresh water?" And, wouldn't it feel just great to have a teenager walk into the room and say, "Flowers for you, today." You know someone cares—and care I do.

I wear a blue and white striped pinafore, white blouse, nylons, and white gym shoes. I am affectionately known as a Red Cross Volunteen, who volunteers several hours a week. At present I am donating Saturday evenings between six and nine o'clock at St. George's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. Yes, I know that other teens are out skating and having fun, but I'm proud of the cap I wear.

I received my pin and uniform after a six-week course on hospital procedure which included rolling bandages, folding laundry, learning how to make beds with a patient in them, discussing diets, reading temperatures, taking pulses and blood pressure, carrying trays, writing letters, playing music for up-patients, and delivering mail. My training also included filling ice water pitchers, filing and other clerical duties, escorting patients on walks in the hospital and even out of doors, if they are allowed. In short, I learned how to be a friendly visitor to the hospitalized patient.

My family consists of a postal employee father; a seamstress mother, who neatly altered my uniform to a size 7/9; an eighteen-year-old brother, who is a senior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology: three cats named Martha, Sable, and Cinders; and about fifty-six guppies. Next year I'll be a sophomore at Colerain High School. I love skating, and I like music. My "serious" hobby is violin, and organ and piano could be my vocation as well as my avocation.

However, my parents have wisely guided me into several fields before I select a

college major. At present my life centers on participating in the Cincinnati Youth Symphony Orchestra, an advanced group of high school musicians from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, and around my Red Cross Volunteen work. My high school credits are aptly planned to cover a career in music education and teaching or home economics and nursing.

I don't know whether I'll ever make a good nurse, but I try to be compassionate and friendly and considerate of others. However, I do know that as I have been learning about day-to-day hospital routine, I have seen others suffer; and this has helped me to learn to give of myself, thus filling my own heart with joy.

My relationship with God is a very personal one. I believe that He is a kind and loving God, and is much more than a "security blanket" in a teenager's troubled world. I believe that the problems my generation faces are more frightening and more difficult than my predecessors have ever faced. I therefore believe my faith in both God and people must be stronger.

I am one of thousands of such teenagers across the country that you never read about in the headlines—a miniature Florence Nightingale in gym shoes, trying to make this world a better place in which to live.

# LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAP

BY THOMAS F. BATTS

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

he climaetic words of this section of the Declaration of Independence—
"Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"—relate to the natural rights of mankind in our great nation. These rights, however, are looked upon by many as mere philosophical abstractions. But a deeper, higher meaning is involved; for man not only has a natural side, he has a spiritual side as well.

# LIFE

erhaps in its physical form, life is most cherished by the majority of mankind. Ancient Athens gloricd in the physical image of man. And today we are following the same pattern.

Although physical life is greatly appreciated, it is not, in the opinions of many experts, the highest form of life. Someone has said, "Physical existence is only the poorest form of living. We do not know how to live until we go beyond that. We eannot live without thought."

Intellectual life is superior to physical life; yet, it is not the highest form of living. The answer to modern man's dilemma is not found in the splitting of atoms, in computerized trips to the stars, in programmed astrological guides, or in probing the secrets of the mind through psychology, psychic research, or psychoanalysis. Man, in all of his knowledge of life, is still helpless in the face of death.

But despite man's inability to elude death, his worst enemy, there is hope. Christ, through God the Father, is the author of life and light, and He conveys these elements to everyone who accepts the provision He has made through Calvary. Jesus came bringing life. He brought not only physical life, but the highest form of life possible—spiritual life. Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Apostle Paul gives us some examples of real life: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is the point at which life really begins—at conversion. The old man, the sin nature, is put to death, and the new man in Christ Jesus comes to life. "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

The whole philosophy of Paul concerning life is seen in the following scripture: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

The crowning experience of life in Christ for Paul is revealed in his elosing remarks to young Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7, 8).

# NESS

# LIBERTY

an is born free and rebels against bondage. This is exemplified in our own American history. When our young nation was like a crawling baby, we stood up as a David in the face of our Goliath and won independence and liberty. Today, freedom's bells still ring because of a small, clandestine group who dared rebel against overwhelming odds.

American slavery, though it is a dark blot on the pages of an otherwise glorious heritage, is a classic example of man's desire to be free. Poor blacks from the Dark Continent were herded like animals into slave ships, taken abroad to a strange land, and subjugated by white masters. They were exploited and stripped of all dignity.

But, once again, the cry to be free was heard across the world. Young rebel leaders facing the threat of severe beating, imprisonment, and even death dared speak a word for freedom. Finally, the moment came for which they had long awaited and prayed: President Abraham Lincoln signed into effect the Emancipation Proclamation. Once again man had obtained his cherished freedom.

All men have the right to be free. The sad truth, however, is that all men are not free. Men may be free physically and intellectually and live in a free society, but still be in bondage.

The worst foe of freedom is not anarchy. It is not a nation that will subject a race of people to slavery and exploit them for their own evil purposes. Neither is it a political philosophy alien to our democratic way of life. Freedom's worst foe is sin! Sin works evil on the body, mind, and soul.

Although man may become cultured, educated, moral, and refined, he still does not have the ability to combat this terrible enemy of freedom. A picture of man's desperation in the face of sin is seen in the following scripture: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of

this death?" (Romans 7:24). But then the answer comes: "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (v. 25). This theme continues in the next chapter: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. . . . For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free" (Romans 8:1, 2).

The only real liberty is in Christ. Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Paul said, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17). Finally, Paul said, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Galatians 5:1).

# PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

t was said that men went to
South America looking for gold, and
to North America looking for God. They
came from all parts of the globe in
pursuit of happiness, desiring a new
life. In the Dcclaration of Independence
this right is guaranteed to each individual. Happiness,
however, seems to have taken on an altogether
different meaning than was originally intended.
Man, in his attempts to build a Utopian
society, has misconstrued the truth.

In an affluent society it is human nature to have materialistic objectives. How much happiness one enjoys many times is determined by how much success he has attained. But with materialism alone, man is still devoid of any real happiness.

Genuine and permanent happiness comes by seeking, with an undivided will, the ways of God. Only God can fill the void within man. Someone has said, "God's purpose is not happiness alone, but holiness." Holiness of heart and life will give man a peace and happiness that nothing else in this world can give.

Happiness is salvation; happiness is life in Christ; happiness is Christ!

Life was given by Christ. Liberty was wrought by Christ. Happiness comes in pursuing Christ.

# The Hesitant Witness



Lord, I'm sorry.

I almost failed You today.

You see, I went as I always do to the small park to just simply be alone and relax in my thoughts. While I sat on the bench that I always take if it's vacant, just meditating and enjoying Your handiwork, Lord, I saw a man sitting on another bench not far from me. Oh, he looked so sad, Lord, so alone and dejected. I saw his tears and knew then that he was crying.

I was instantly ashamed for staring at this pitiful creature; but somehow I couldn't divert my attention for more than a second. It's not often I've seen a grown man actually shed tears, so I knew something must be terribly wrong to cause him to become so broken and defeated.

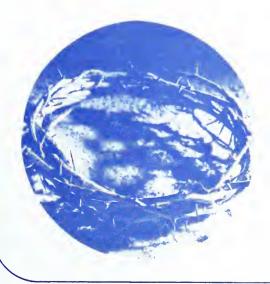
Almost overwhelmingly I felt a compulsion, out of concern and compassion, to join the man, to speak to him, to ask if I could be of help to him. I thought I was alone, Lord. But, unknowingly to me, there on my favorite bench in the little park, Satan had chosen this very time to join me. A harsh voice grated my insides and made me uncomfortable. "Now just mind your own business, Pal. What concern is that man to you? Don't concern yourself with him. Let him solve his own problems. Have you forgotten all the other times you've been scorned and laughed at because you butted in and tried to be a help to someone? Has anyone ever repaid you for your goodness? Ha! No, and this one is no different. Forget all that love thy neighbor business, Pal. Besides, there's no real need for you to worry—I'm taking care of him. I know, and that's why I'm going to talk to him—about Jesus.

-James O. Henry

# Freedom Is Beautiful!

# BY EMILIE HIPP

Emily Hipp, a layout artist, was employed until recently in the Art Department of the Church of God Publishing House. She has returned to North Carolina with her husband, where he will be teaching in the Paw Creek Church of God day school.



Imost two thousand years ago Jesus Christ came to set me free. He was a revolutionary, yet not a rebel; He came into the world to seek and to save, not to condemn or destroy.

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered on the Cross, but by doing so He set me free! He offered me a new life, whole and complete in Him. However, His offer of freedom was not made to me alone, for all mankind may accept it. But to have freedom, we must decide to accept it; not to make a decision is to have decided already against this free gift.

When Jesus came, He knew He would be rejected; yet out of His love for man He came. He offered to take every man, just as he is, and to mold and make him into a new man, free from the sin of this world.

When a young person accepts this offer from Christ, God requires complete obedience, trust, and dedication. Youth must forget about earthly treasures and turn to the heavenly treasures, where neither rust nor moths can corrupt.

Place Christ first in your life; make Him number one. After that, you are no longer a slave of this world; you belong to Christ.

However, do not expect to be perfect. Christians are not perfect; they are just forgiven! As humans, we fail at times; but Christ offers forgiveness if we will turn from our failures to Him. Christ forgives sin and remembers it no more.

Christ freed me on April 12, 1953. A new life was born, and then slowly, so slowly, as a shoot from an underground root, I began to grow. Nurtured by prayers, Bible reading, and Christian fellowship, I grew toward Christian maturity like a thriving plant.

It is so wonderful what God does in a life once it has been freed by the blood of Calvary! Thank You, God, for setting me free.

# Two years ago Mary Smith, that most of the young people

Two years ago Mary Smith, then eighteen years old, confessed her sins, publicly accepted Christ, and believed she had found salvation.

This sounds fine; but it was not fine at all. For Mary Smith had "found Christ" through a religious cult which also required her to denounce her parents and give herself completely to any demands this group might make.

A year later Mary Smith, terrified, telephoned her parents in Connecticut, and said that she wanted to come home. The religious sect she had joined in New York City had transported Mary and her sister, who was two years older than Mary, to South America. They had kept her hidden for three long months. She wanted to go home; yet, she feared for her sister who was still with the sect. The once happy, active teenager had turned into a frightened girl who would never again be the same.

On a cold day in December of 1973, Mary Smith arrived back home. When her mother saw her daughter walking from the plane, she said it was almost as though Mary had returned from the dead. Mary was at home with her parents for a whole vear before she could bring herself to tell the entire story of her experiences. There are memories that Mary believes will always linger, and she does not know if she and her parents will ever see her sister again.

The tragedy of this situation is

who join these cults come from Christian homes. Mary and her sister were both reared in a strong Christian atmosphere. They had attended Sunday school, as children, and youth organizational activities in their teens; they had a firm belief in Christ. Many of these sects stress the love of God to lure impressionable young people into their organizations. They are careful in their first contacts to exhibit no traces of anything but acceptable attitudes and beliefs. For this reason, both parents and young people must be warned of their methods. We must not take it for granted that these cults could never touch us or those we love.

The Smith sisters were both college students when they first heard of the sect they joined. They had been involved in Christian activities and disliked the general morals of many of the other students. They started searching for a wholesome Christian group to have fellowship with. They were delighted when a fellow student invited them to attend her Christian group. What the sisters did not know at the time was that they had been singled out because they were "ripe" for recruitment. The girl who seemingly casually invited them to that meeting actually had been assigned to recruit them.

At first it seemed like an ordinary Christian group; they even called themselves a fundamentalist Christian

(Names and locations have been changed but the story is based on fact.)

f you happen to be a parent of a young person in high school or college, I think you should read this true story. It will shock you, but remember that the same type of experience is happening to young people in this country by the hundreds. I will call the young woman in the story Mary Smith rather than reveal her real name.

# s Cults

# BY MARY LOUISE KITSEN

organization. However, in just two months the group had worked their "spell" so effectively on the sisters that the girls left school, denounced their parents as being possessed by the devil, and secreted themselves with the group. In thinking about this profound change in her sister and herself, Mary Smith now believes that drugs must have been used to make their personalities change so much.

The lives these sisters led within the sheltered group sounds unbelievable. Yet young people are being trapped in such groups today, and they will be trapped again tomorrow unless someone tells young people and their parents how these groups operate.

The sisters, along with the other members, had to lead a rigorous schedule of work: Bible study (with the Bible carefully interpreted to mean what the sect leaders wanted it to mean), prayer meetings, personal deprivation (including turning all possessions over to the cult, giving up dating and social contacts outside of the group, or carrying money) and absolute obedience to the cult leaders. Mary Smith said that she was encouraged to lie and steal "if it was for her salvation in the end."

At public meetings Mary and her sister were instructed to tell how they had been on drugs and were promiscuous before joining the cult. These things were not true; but the sisters were convinced by cult leaders that in doing this, they would lead other "sisters" who were on drugs and were promiscuous to the cult and would thus be "saving" these other girls. Mary said she believed at the time that she was actually saving many young people from lives of sin by telling these lies about herself.

When the Smith sisters took part in an open meeting in Hartford, Connecticut,

telling their "lies for the salvation of others," Mr. and Mrs. Smith, along with the parents of a young man from another Connecticut town, decided to take action. They hired a man to kidnap their daughters and the young man from the sect. The attempt failed and so these young people were sent out of the country by the sect!

Continued on page 24





Teen Talent National Competition Schedule of Activities August 17-21, Theater, Memorial Auditorium, Dallas, Texas

August 17-21, Theater, Memor	rial Auditorium, Dallas, Texc		
Rehearsal Time 9:30 a.m12:00 noon For all contestants in	Session 6 11:00 a.m12:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble		
Sessions 1, 2  Session 1 1:00 p.m3:00 p.m. Vocal Solo	Session 7 2:00 p.m3:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble		
Instrumental Solo (Keyboard)  Session 2	Session 8 4:00 p.m5:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble		
4:00 p.m6:30 p.m. Vocal Solo	Friday		
Instrumental Solo (Keyboard)	Rehearsal Time 9:30 a.m12:00 noon For all contestants in Sessions 9, 10		
Wednesday			
Rehearsal Time 9:00 a.m10:30 a.m. For all contestants in Sessions 3, 4, 5	Session 9 1:30 p.m3:00 p.m. Choir		
<b>Session 3</b> 11:00 a.m1:00 p.m. Vocal Solo	<b>Session 10</b> 4:00 p.m6:00 p.m. Choir		
Instrumental Solo (non-Keyboard)  Session 4	Reception for Teen Talent Participants 10:00 p.m. at Baker Hotel		
2:30 p.m4:30 p.m. Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo			
	Saturday		
(non-Keyboard)  Session 5 5:00 p.m6:30 p.m.	Rehearsal Time 10:00 a.m12:00 noon For all contestants in Session 11 1:00 p.m3:00 p.m. Choir		
Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble Thursday			
Rehearsal Time 9:00 a.m10:30 a.m. For all contestants in Sessions 6, 7, 8	Awards Festival 10:00 p.m. in Theater, Dallas Memorial Auditorium		

# SPECIAL **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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# Speaking With Tongues

# Study Seven

A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

### BY J. RALPH BREWER

Youth and CE Director, Michigan

Purpose: To show that "speaking with tongues" is the initial (beginning) evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism and that many additional proofs will be realized as the Spirit is given full control

Introduction: In Study 6, we discussed the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how this experience may be personally received. In this lesson, we will discuss the significance of speaking with tongues and other scriptural evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism.

#### I. SPEAKING WITH TONGUES

the Day of Pentecost.

Article nine of the Church of God Declaration of Faith states, "We believe . . . in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

This position is adequately and convincingly supported by the New Testament. (Read and study all Scripture references.)

- A. Jesus foretold that believers would speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17, 18).
- B. The 120 spoke with tongues on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
  C. The household of Cornelius spoke with tongues and magnified God (Acts 10:46). This occurred approximately eight years after the Day
- of Pentecost.

  D. The Ephesians spoke with tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 19:6). This happened approximately twenty years after
- E. Paul spoke with tongues (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- F. The Corinthians spoke with tongues twenty-six years after Pentecost (1 Corinthians 14:18).

In all, there are more than twenty references to speaking with other tongues in the New Testament. (Read 1 Corinthians, chapters 12 and 14. Underline all the references.)

#### II. OTHER PROOFS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

While speaking with tongues is the first outward sign of the Holy Spirit baptism, it is by no means the only evidence. As the Christian continues to yield himself to the dynamic influence of the Spirit, he will begin to realize the full import of the blessing he has received. He will discover a new dimension of living through the power of the

Spirit. Other notable proofs and characteristics of the Holy Spirit baptism are as follows:

- A. Power for service (Acts 1:8)
- B. Courage to stand (Acts 4:13; 31; 5:29)
- C. Faith for miracles (Acts 6:8)
- D. Fruit of the Spirit exemplified (Galatians 5:22-23)
- E. Gifts of the Spirit exercised (1 Corinthians 12)
- F. Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
- G. Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)
- H. Love through the Spirit (Colossians 1:8)
- I. Leadership of the Spirit (Galatians 5:18)J. Fellowship of the Spirit (Philippians 2:1)

#### III. THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES

The primary purpose of tongues is to signify God's total and absolute control of your life. Thus, speaking in tongues cannot be regarded as an end in itself, but as an outward demonstration of an inward experience. In this light, the emphasis is on God and not on man. We should always remember, that the gift of the Holy Spirit is never imparted for self-glory but for Christ's glory (John 15:26). While the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will comfort, strengthen, edify, and empower your life, His main function is to help you effectively serve Christ. Teenage friend, be all that He wants you to be, and accomplish all that He wants you to accomplish, through total submission to His direction and will.

#### ASSIGNMENT

After carefully reading and studying all the Scripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise:

- The Scriptures teach that speaking with tongues is the .....evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism.
- 2. There are more than \_\_\_\_\_\_ reference speaking with tongues in the New Testament.
- 3. Tongues are an outward ..... of an inward ....
- 4. List three proofs or characteristics of the Spirit-filled life.

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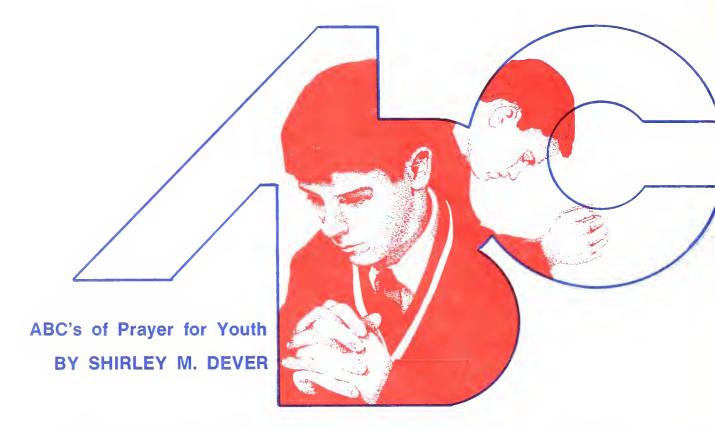
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ome teens from affluent families were discussing prayer the other day.
"I know I should pray," one boy confessed, "but many times I don't know what to pray for!"

"I have the same problem," a girl admitted. "I'd pray more, honest I would, if I just knew

what to pray about."

This conversation got me to thinking about things to pray for, and I wrote down the letters of the alphabet to see what ideas might correspond with each letter. Let me share my list with you. Here are some mighty worthwhile things to pray for!

**A—Assurance.** For instance, every believer needs encouragement and the assurance that he is walking a path that will please God. Through prayer you can get that assurance—directly from the Master!

**B—Beautiful Attitudes.** Sometimes the beatitudes in the Bible are described in this way. Billy Graham wrote an entire book about them and called it *The Secret of Happiness*. Take them one at a time, and ask God to help you understand them. They begin, "Blessed are . . ." (see Matthew 5:3-11). For instance, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (verse 8). These are the attitudes that will make you happy. Meditate on them.

**C—Church.** Pray for your church, that it might

spread the gospel and bring more and more people to Christ. Pray, too, that you may help your church by serving it in some God-directed way. If you earn money, pray for guidance on how much to give to your local church.

**D**—*Dialogue*. This means merely being able to communicate openly and freely with those you love; such as your family, your friends, and other believers. God can help you in your dialogue with others. It is your witnessing tool!

**E—Evangelism.** Billy Graham and other evangelists are spreading the gospel all over the world. Spreading the gospel is one thing Christ asked Christians to do. Pray for these dedicated men. They

are in need of your prayerful support.

**F—Friends.** When you pray for others, this is called intercessory prayer. God loves to have you pray in this way, for it proves you are becoming "other-centered." Christ's commandments were love commandments. There is no better way to love someone as you love yourself than to pray for him.

**G—Guidance.** In the world you live in, divine guidance is the most precious help you can get. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7). Ask Him for guidance, then stand by and watch for His answers.

**H—Health.** There are few commercials on TV I like. But the Geritol one at least makes sense: "If you've got your health, you've got just about everything." Ask the Lord to help you stay healthy.

Pray for people you know who are ill or injured, for the Lord can help them. Many churches have prayer lists of members who need help. Join other believers who pray for these people.

**I—Integrity.** Pray for your own personal integrity and that of others. After what has happened in the top places in our government, you can see how vital this trait is. Ask God to help you resist temptation so that you can remain honest and reliable in all your dealings.

**J—Joy.** There is a song the folk masses often sing: "I've got the joy you're looking for!" Yes, Jesus has the joy you're looking for! Ask Him for it. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit that is promised a believer. Many unbelievers claim that we believers show too little joy. Don't let this happen to you. Joy is an inner kind of thing, and it is even superior to happiness!

**K—Knowledge.** Most of the ways the Lord asks a believer to serve Him require knowledge. Get it! Be sure to read from your Bible every day. The knowledge in this one Book cannot be beat. It is our rule book. And you can count on the answers that you discover in it being the right ones!

L—Love. Of all the Christian qualities, this heads the list. To really comprehend this kind of love, read and meditate on the love chapter in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13. It is beautiful! Then ask the Lord to help you love Him and others and yourself as He has commanded you to. Think, too, of how much God loves you. He sacrificed His own Son for you and me! If you really practice God's kind of love, your life will be changed for the better. For it will change the condition of your heart. Your human relationships will grow so much better and you'll become closer and closer to the Master.

M—Meaning to Life. It's amazing how many people lack meaning and purpose in their lives to-day. God has a plan for your life. Ask Him to show you what it is, and you'll discover that life does have meaning. Many young people have an empty look. God will keep you so full of Him and your purpose for Him that you won't have this problem!

**N—Nation.** When Gerald Ford became our president in August 1974, he asked all of us to support him with our prayers. He and the other top men in the United States government need this kind of support from you and me. Include your country and the men who run it in your prayers.

**O—Overpopulation.** If you study all the material available on worldly problems, you'll discover that most of them are related to this big one! Pray for divine help for the entire world in the solution to this overwhelming problem.

**P—Peace.** Pray not only for world peace, but

your own personal peace, too. Peace of heart and mind and soul—peace with God. The Bible promises you the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). When you get this kind of peace, you can take anything the world throws at you!

**Q—Quiet.** In these overcrowded times, quietness becomes an important commodity. When you need it, pray for it. Fight, if need be, for a quiet place where you can get off by yourself to be alone with God every now and then. Every believer needs to do this.

**R—Relatives.** These are the people you call your loved ones. They are your parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Pray for them. They hold a very special place in your life. Some of them have given you your heritage!

**S—School.** Don't laugh. Schools always need help. Pray for the school you attend. You will never get very far without a good education!

**T—Teachers.** Pray that they will have the wisdom and patience to teach you the skills you need. Pray for their welfare. Pray that guidance from God shall be theirs.

**U—Understanding.** This is a tremendous word. It has a lot to do with how long you are willing to wait for God to answer your prayers. The Bible says that to God a thousand years are as a day (see 2 Peter 3:8). In the Good Book you will find answers to spiritual questions and gain understanding. Yet you also need understanding in relating to other people. This is something worth praying for!

**V—Vitality.** It takes a lot of energy to be a good Christian. Ask the Lord to help you live in the ways that will give you the most vitality. This will mean fighting temptations, too, such as drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. The Lord can give you the strength to resist all temptations that come your way. Trust Him!

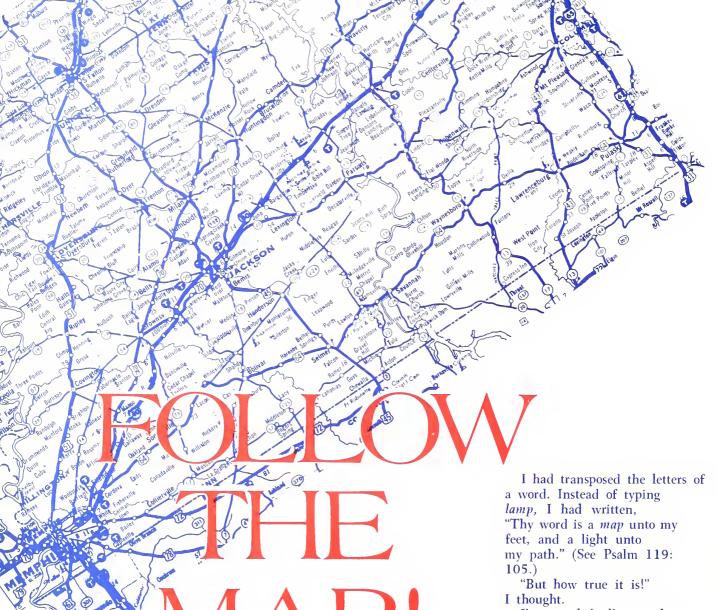
**W—Wisdom.** You'll be a whole lot wiser when you're older, but you can start working in that direction now. Pray for this wonderful quality. You'll need it in your walk through life!

**X—X ray.** The eyes of the Lord are everywhere; so ask Him to search the inner recesses of your heart and reveal to you anything that displeases Him.

**Y—Youth.** Pray for your peers, the youth of our country. Someday some of you will be running things. Pray that you will have the right foundations so that you can take over when the time is right!

**Z—Zeal.** Pray for this quality, for you can infect others with it!

If you take this list to heart and add your own ideas to it, you will probably never say, "I don't know what to pray for!"



BY MURIEL LARSON

y fingers flew over the keys of my typewriter, rapping out the final copy of a comprehensive training union program I had written on assignment. Suddenly I realized I had made a typographical error. I stopped and looked—and then laughed at the apparent mistake I had made.

I've traveled all over the United States by car, so I'm thoroughly familiar with maps. All kinds of roads are shown on them—interstate highways, turnpikes, four-laners, two-laners, and county roads. But usually there is one particular road you must take in order to get where you're going.

Most of us know that Jesus is the only way to heaven. God's Word plainly maps out the way of salvation through faith in Christ. The books of John and Romans in the Bible have the most specific directions.

And speaking of ways, Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

It is hard to understand, but many who profess Christ seem to be following the broad way rather than the narrow way. The eye of faith, however, sees that the narrow way actually gives the greatest fulfillment in this life and the pext.

The superhighways we can take across the land today are beautifully broad and easy to drive on. We need no map to follow them. They carry us through one state after another. But they do have a tendency to get monotonous and to dull our senses. We may even become slightly hypnotized. Several times when I've been traveling along at the top speed limit, I've had to slam on the brakes and come to a screeching halt because of a backup of traffic due to an accident or roadwork. This all but ruined my tires and probably didn't help the brakes either!

Sometimes such occasions result in a wrecked car, a wrecked body, or death. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Several times I had this problem on my way down to Florida via a superhighway. I decided to take some lesser highways on my trip home.

Although I had to pay close

Continued on page 24



see 37311.

#### **FOLLOW THE MAP!**

Continued from page 23

attention to the map and the road, I saved more than an hour of traveling time, got better mileage, and had a more enjoyable trip. We passed through some quaint towns with old houses, restful tree-lined streets, interesting shopping districts—and stoplights.

You know, that's like using God's Word as our map through life. Time just flies and life is so interesting when you're living in the center of God's will and following His leading. The narrow way may not be so easy to follow at times, but it is filled with peace and joy and God's pleasant surprises.

To follow this way we need to frequently refer to our life map, the Bible. We need to read it daily. In it we'll come across passages that will bring rest to our hearts. just as tree-lined streets bring rest to our eves. We'll find verses that encourage us to patience, just as shopping districts do. We'll find stoplights or flashing warning signals that will protect us from a dangerous course that might take us out of God's will. We'll find ancient prophecies and promises that are more beautiful today than ever before.

Meditating on God's Word helps us to abide in Him, and abiding in Him means being led by His Spirit.
"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). Are your feet on His beautiful, narrow way? Are you following His road map?

# THE TERROR OF RELIGIOUS CULTS

Continued from page 15

Mary Smith said that life for members of the sect in South America was difficult indeed. From 5 a.m. until 5 p.m. they worked on farms or did housework. They received no wages! They were literally in bondage! Mary Smith could now see the truth of her situation. But she had given her savings to the leaders of the scet and was watched all the time. She started having headaches and felt depressed. She even considered killing herself. She found it difficult to realize that such a thing could have happened to her. When Mary broke her arm she was relieved of work. One day she told the leaders that she was going to meditate. Instead, she ran away and hid until she had a chance to eall her parents eolleet. They had kept her hidden in South America for three months, but it had seemed more like three years.

Not all of the cults such as the one Mary Smith joined are as strong and as dangerous as that particular one is, but many are just as frightening. Much danger lies in even those not as radical as the one in our story. These cults are growing in number, and we cannot dismiss them as fiction because they are real!

Remember, brainwashing is a very real thing. It has been used for generations. Drugs are used today with ease; they are the tools of many "religious" eults which in reality have no trace of true Christianity within their organizations. Mary Smith was told over and over a story about two sisters killing themselves. This is why she started thinking about

killing herself. Was this an attempt to get rid of a member who was starting to drift away, starting to think for herself again? What a horrible idea! But this does happen—it actually happens!

Parents, you must tell your young people about these groups. Young people, you must unite with recognized Christian organizations. If you attend a Christian meeting and are told anything at all which sounds wrong to you, report the group to your counselor at college, or to a parent, a teacher, or someone else. You must not let being in a strange location and being lonely lead you to accept fellowship which takes any turn toward an unauthorized, offbeat road.

Parents, if your child does become involved with one of these cults, you must not abandon him. Seek help—not from men who offer to "kidnap youths from religious sects for a high fee," but from religious leaders, authorities, or anyone else who might truly be able to help you.

All parents must join in the crusade to put an end to these eults. They often make efforts to aet inside of the law; but when they become strong enough, their desire for more money and more power usually causes them to start making careless mistakes. We must urge investigations of such organizations. We must catch the mistakes which can bring the law down on them. The woman who started the sect of which Mary Smith was a member was once without funds; but she is a rich woman today.

Public pressure can stop these cults. As Christians we must put pressure on these groups. They must be stopped. CONGRESS. JULY 1. 1970.

CONGRESS. JULY 1. 1970.

States of With the state of the s

America,
Although we're old,
We still have things we need to do
Before reaching our pot of gold.

he unani

We're a country of peace,
And in God we trust.
All of this, must not cease,
As in world leadership we are thrust.

Our mining, cattle, industry, and crops, All the way from coast to coast, Are a few of the important props

Which give us good cause to boast.

When our country's leaders want complete power,
And try to get it with dictatorial force,
Then that will be America's darkest hour;
We'll then start on a downward course.

But for two hundred years,
No leader has made that try.
America, for us they cheer
We've not let democracy pass by.

With the grace of God, We shall not fall, Till He comes again, Let's all walk tall.

> America, We're Beautiful!

> > -Sherrie Gundlach (grade 7, age 12) Phoenix, Arizona

# An Arm's Length From God

BY EVELINE JOHNSON

Larry and Eveline Johnson are members of the Okolona Church of God in Louisville, Kentucky. They met during the Kentucky Youth Camp in 1971 and were married the following summer.

or years I have been a Christian. However, in the past several years there has been something missing in my relationship with God.
I attended church regularly—I even taught a primary Sunday school class. I discussed the gospel with girls at work and was known as a Christian; yet, I didn't have that assurance in my heart that everything was right between my Savior and me. At church and occasionally at home the Spirit would touch my heart and bless me, but it never seemed to last.

Four years ago I was married and three months later my husband entered college. I went to work but soon found that I didn't like my job; so I started taking night classes at college to enable me to get a better job. My husband worked full-time, but with the two of us in college, money was scarce. Since my husband worked most evenings I began teaching piano lessons on the evenings I didn't have a class. Working full-time, going to college part-time, and giving several piano lessons a week kept me busy—too busy!

My husband and I liked to read the Bible together. When he came home from work late, we would read. But we were so tired, we really didn't get much benefit from it.

I finally got a better job; God enabled us to buy a little house; and later God blessed us with a daughter.

After I quit working, I thought I would have time to study the Bible and pray more. I had finally realized that my lack of studying God's Word and talking with Him on a regular basis was keeping me at an arm's length from God. No matter how well your soul may be fed on Sunday, you can't go without food the rest of the week!

Every day I planned to read the Bible and

pray as soon as I did the dishes or the washing. But, it seemed there was always something that needed to be done. One day when I did read the Bible, I came across this Scripture, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and *cares of this life*, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34). I suddenly realized that I might miss an eternity with God—for housework!

It is difficult to study the Bible and pray while trying to care for a baby. So I began studying the Bible and praying as soon as Ondria took her first nap each day, regardless of what work needed to be done. I found that if I waited till she took her afternoon nap, I might be disturbed by a visitor or telephone call, and would not get to finish my devotions that day. I soon began picking up the Bible again while she took her afternoon nap. Never before have I loved God's Word as I do now.

I still desire to be closer to God, but through daily prayer and study of God's Word, I am growing stronger in Christ. My love has increased; my faith has increased; and my father-in-law commented on a change in my personality (for the better).

A touch from God is sacred and needful, but unless we are grounded in faith by personal devotions, we are like the person described in the parable of the Sower. "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended" (Matthew 13:20, 21).

# Price of freedom

We commemorate the beginning of our nation's freedom on July 4. As we look back to 1776, how we thank God for the courage of our forefathers! Recounting the grievances of the people against the English crown and declaring the colonies to be free and independent states, the Declaration of Independence marked the culmination of a political process.

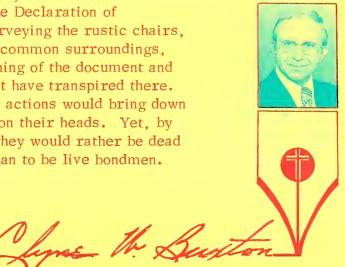
The colonies were now releasing themselves from the crown and were founding their own government. This historic Declaration, the original draft being penned by Thomas Jefferson, using "neither book nor pamphlet" as he later said, is a model document. Its principles have been incorporated into various governments in Europe and Latin America.

Of course, the resounding note throughout the Declaration is freedom, and the last sentence reads, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Fifty-six men, representing the thirteen states, solemnly affixed their signatures to the document. Thus a free nation began to take shape. Note that these founders of our country pledged their fortunes, their honor, and even their lives to freedom.

Not long ago I stood in the very room where these men, bent on freedom, signed the Declaration of Independence 200 years ago. Surveying the rustic chairs, the simple tables, and the other common surroundings, mentally I reconstructed the signing of the document and visualized the sincerity that must have transpired there.

Surely these men knew their actions would bring down the wrath of the mother country on their heads. Yet, by their actions, they were saying they would rather be dead free men, if it came to dying, than to be live bondmen. Such is the price of freedom!





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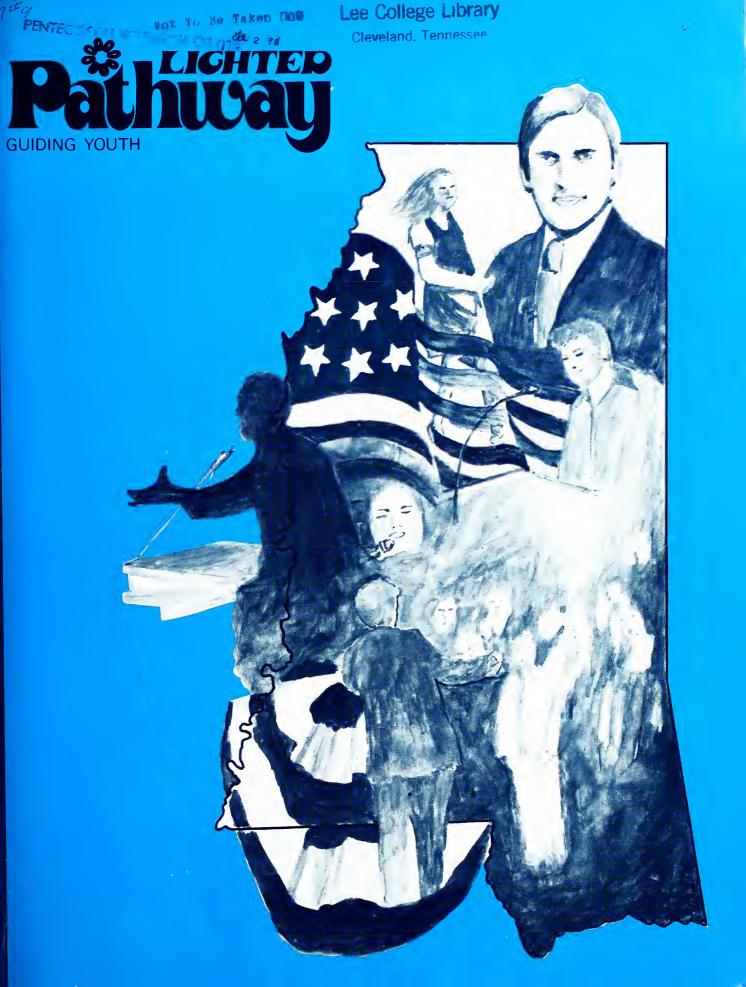


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# MISSISSIPPI'S STATE FREEDOM RALLY

# BY BILLY J. O'NEAL AND EVALYN HATHORN

urry, please! Please hurry and register," came a voice over the microphone. Hundreds and hundreds of young people were gathering under the Church of God State Campground Tabernacle to celebrate Mississippi's State Freedom Rally. The date was Saturday, May 15, 1976, and the time was 10:30 in the morning.

A trumpet played by David Chalk called the State Freedom Rally to order, playing a medley of "Reveille," "To the Colors," and "Taps." State Youth Director Billy J. O'Neal welcomed the largest gathering of Church of God young people in Mississippi's history to the Freedom Rally.

The program began with pledges to the flag and to the Bible, led by Jeff Finch, Gregg Hodge, and Ray Matthes. Statements such as the following rang throughout the tabernacle: "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." "One Savior, crucified, risen and coming again." "I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word."

"O beautiful for spacious skies. . . . America! America! God shed His grace on thee," sang the con-

gregation. "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. . . . Glory! glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on," sang Steve Ward and the Hattiesburg Teen Choir. The sound was of ecstatic joy as their voices mingled together.

Posters waving in the air read: "Look and Live," "Jesus Is Real," "Look and Hear," "His Coming Is Near!" "Happy Birthday, America!" "200!" "I'm Too Young to March in the Infantry, Shoot the Artillery . . . But I'm in the Lord's Army!"

Nine young people from throughout the state were introduced to speak on "Freedom in the Fruit of the Spirit." "Now abideth faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love," said Anita Brown of Hattiesburg. She said that the greatest love of all is the love of Jesus Christ.

David Chalk of Jackson shared a thought about joy. He said that happiness is concerned with things that happen around us, but joy is that which happens within us.

"Some people are guilty of trying to get peace without God, but abiding peace is spiritually induced," stated DeWade Pittman of Clara. "Anxiety hinders us from peace. Peace is the work of God's Spirit," he advised.

Sherry Taylor of Starkville made us realize that we cannot produce just one fruit of the Spirit. She said that all fruit of the Spirit grows from one stem, and we should have all the fruit.

Speaking on the theme of longsuffering, Richard Lawhorn from Gulfport said that long-suffering is produced by the Holy Spirit.

Molly Reid of Jackson said that the seed of goodness is planted by God. "We are to live for God and by His standards," she reminded us, "not for people and their standards." Dixie Weir of Ruleville said that if we would all exercise our faith, our land would stay free.

"Are you able to deal with all of your opposition?" asked Andrae Young of Picayune. "If not, you may not possess the fruit of meekness," she said. "Meekness is characterized by patience and is associated with humility." "Temperance," said David Finch of Jackson, "is striving for mastery. We should not manifest the works of the flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, hatred, strife, wrath, etc.; but we should bring our bodies under subjection."

How the youth sang! "This land is your land, this land is my land. . . This land was made for you and me." They all sang, thanking God for their freedom. Billy Chalk and the Jackson District Youth Choir sang "Statue of Liberty," and the tabernacle was filled with joy as they sang "I'm so glad to be called an American!"

The Honorable Cliff Finch, governor of Mississippi, gave a challenging address to the youth. A part of his address was as follows: "It is refreshing to see young people celebrating our nation's birthday by worshiping God and reflecting on the principles that made our America great. Our freedom was not free-our forefathers worked hard for it. For the people who signed the Declaration of Independence, it was a time of giving up. Many of them lost their lives, their homes, and their families because of the stand they made for our country. For the first time in our nation's history. the Bill of Rights was introduced, spelling out rights that the government could never take away from our people. The government was forbidden to violate our right to worship in the church of our choice. The Bill of Rights guaranteed our freedom. It is your personal duty to preserve our freedom. We need the help and prayers of our young people today to keep our America frec."

Then came a time of old-fashioned recreation consisting of three-legged races, relay races, and other activities. Meanwhile, some 250 juniors were enjoying "doing their own thing," led by J. D. Amason of Winona. They, too, made pledges to the flag and the Bible, and had a talent program. They took a special freedom hike for Christ around the campground, singing choruses and following the Christian Flag

Mississippi State Freedom Rally registration



Governor Finch speaking



and the United States Flag. They also carried placards reading, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, Is Liberty," "Get Hooked on the Real Thing!" "The Lord Wants You! Join Up Now!" These kids with their enthusiasm were an inspiration to the teenagers as they marched and sang for the Lord.

After eating our sack lunches, we enjoyed more music and singing. Janet Brown of Hattiesburg sang a solo entitled "Because He Loved Me." Next the Starkville Ensemble sang in adoration of their God. Sherry Taylor of Starkville was then at the keyboard with her rendition of "Holy, Holy," "Near the Cross," and "The Lord's Prayer."

The Hattiesburg Teen Choir, directed by Steve Ward, blessed us as they sang, "Praise Him with the cymbals, praise Him with the drums, praise Him with the tambourines, praise Him everyone."

Anita Brown speaks on "Love"









The Reverend Paul Henson, state overseer of Oklahoma, spoke to the youth on the theme, "Three Steps to Spiritual Freedom." He made the following points: (1) Be what God wants you to be. (2) Accept your freedom to do what God wants you to dothe call of God. (3) Live like God wants you to live—a separated life. He pointed out that in order to have spiritual liberty, we must be willing to give up self liberty. He appealed to the congregation to surrender their hearts and minds to God the Savior.

Junior Divísion Freedom March



DeWade Pittman eaks on "Peace"



Hattiesburg Teen Choir sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic"



"In order to live a separated life, we must have an oldfashioned sanctification experience," Brother Henson continued. "To be effective, we need to get it [sanctification] instantly and live it progressively. God has a divine purpose for calling a personal representative. Be what God wants you to be, say what He wants you to say, and do what He wants you to do. Be a love slave to Christ," he said.

Following Brother message, the most touching moment of the day took place. Every youth was given a personal Declaration of Faith scroll. State Di-

Henson's of Mississippi

Billy O'Neal leading mass



Paul Henson speaking



rector Billy J. O'Neal led the mass rally in reading the Church of God Declaration of Faith from the scroll. Over fifteen hundred young people walked down the aisles to officially sign their personal Declaration of Faith. They signed. publically committing themselves to God.

This was indeed a State Freedom Rally.

For the last four years Billy J. O'Neal has led the youth



Each youth signed a "Faith and Freedom Declaration''



## by gien herring

ecently I attended a cattle auction with a dealer who owns several cattle ranches and buys cattle for several packing-houses. When the auction first started, it was difficult to understand what was taking place; but as it progressed, I began to comprehend its significance.

The auctioneer called out the words and numbers designating each cow to be sold. I watched the bidding as one by one the cattle were sold to the highest bidder. The auctioneer had complete control over the bidding, trying to increase the offer for each animal. When the bids seemed low, he spoke of the fine points of the animal in an attempt to show off its good qualities.

Like the cattle, the youth of today are at an auction conducted by the devil, the head auctioneer. In a muffled voice, he offers very high bids through various means. He shows the good points while hiding the bad. Most important arc the bids about the future. If his offers buy your attention and life, then he has someone to help fight against the kingdom of God.

Fortune, position, and fame are offered by Satan as the candy-coated wrapping for eventual misery and death. However, high positions are not always glamorous; fortune does not always mean security; fame is not lasting. The devil will bid highly for the talent of the youth. If you sell your life and talent to him, he can cause you to experience heights of glory, but these opportunities will not endure through eternity.

On the other hand, God is quietly bidding for those He loves. His bids are not always attractively wrapped with convincing flattery, but the rewards of His offers exceed one's fondest dreams. His retirement plan provides a home in heaven. His highest bid is eternal life, secured by the offering of God's only Son—Jesus Christ. Material gain and popularity are not always promised; but we need not worry, for our needs will be met. Tremendous rewards await those who choose to accept the bid of Jesus Christ.

The decision to follow Christ may involve hard work, sacrifice, and little praise; but there are no regrets to this decision. The devil's bids may seem alluring at first, but they will prove fatal in the end. Which bid will you accept?

# YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 17-23

### FLOYD D. CAREY

Assistant General Directar of Youth and Christian Education

The Church of God General Assembly convenes biennially to consider the missian af the Church of God in the warld today. The agenda contains items relating to the doctrinal position of the church, evangelism penetratian, and practical applications of the teachings of God's Word in daily life. As a young person, exposure to the General Assembly abjectives and activities will help you to understand both the missian of the church and the operational procedures of the church. It will help to guide you in becoming actively involved.

In addition to the business sessions of the General Assembly, there are many activities designed exclusively for your benefit. Appearing with this article is a schedule giving an overview of these activities. These events are designed to pravide you with the oppartunity for fellowship and ta inspire you ta use your talents for the glory of God and to commit your life to the cause of Jesus Christ.

The General Assembly also provides a unique opportunity for you to get acquainted with young people from ather states and from other countries and to unite with them in sharing faith and in serving Christ. On behalf of the General Department of Youth and Christian Education I want to give you a special invitation to attend the Church of God 1976 General Assembly. It will be a unique experience for you, and it will have a dynamic impact on yaur life.

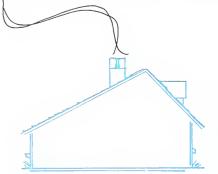
	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Teen Talent Session 1  1:00 p.m3:00 p.m. Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo (Keyboard)  Teen Talent Session 2  4:00 p.m6:30 p.m. Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo (Keyboard)  Teen Action Rally  7:30 p.m.—Music, Worship, Sermon, Fellowship  FRIDAY  Teen Talent Session 9  1:30 p.m3:00 p.m. Choir Teen Talent Session 10  4:00 p.m6:00 p.m. Choir Children's Action Rall	Teen Talent Session 1	Teen Talent Session 3	Teen Talent Session 6
	Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo	11:00 a.m1:00 p.m. Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo (Non-keyboard)	11:00 a.m12:00 noon Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble Teen Talent Session 7
	Teen Talent Session 2	Teen Talent Session 4	
	Vocal Solo .	2:30 p.m4:30 p.m. Vocal Solo	2:00 p.m3:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble Vocal Ensemble
		Instrumental Solo (Non-keyboard)	Teen Talent Session 8
	1	Teen Talent Session 5	4:00 p.m5:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble
		5:00 p.m6:30 p.m. Instrumental Ensemble	Vocal Ensemble
		Vocal Ensemble	Children's Action Rally
RAA I As dito	FRIDAY	Teen Action Rally	7:30 p.m.—Special Involvement Program
Fellowship  FRIDAY  Teen Talent Session 9  1:30 p.m3:00 p.m. Choir  Teen Talent Session 10  4:00 p.m6:00 p.m. Choir  Children's Action Rally  7:30 p.m.—Special Involvement Program  Reception for Teen	Teen Talent Session 9	7:30 p.m.—Music, Worship, Sermon, Fellowship	SUNDAY
			Missions Service
	55	SATURDAY	10:00 a.m.—Hear
		Teen Talent Session 11	the Korean Youth Choir sing and J. F.
	Choir	1:00 p.m3:00 p.m. Choir	Rowlands preach. The 1977 YWEA project is
	,	Children's Action Rally	a Bible School in Seoul,
		7:30 p.m.—Special	Korea. Brother Rowlands directed the
	Involvement Program	building of the Bible school in Durban,	
	Talent Participants	Awards Festival	South Africa (1973
10:00 p.m.—Baker Hotel	10:00 p.m.—Teen Talent Winners	YWEA project). Giant Youth Rally	
		Announced and Trophies Presented	5:00 p.m.—Audito-
		-	rium Special Music
			Ronald Brock, speaker

Since writing this article, Annette Hale has joined the staff of the Lighted Pathway as Research secretary.



Finally, I finished. Then I stood back and surveyed the realization of my dream. I was so proud of its uniqueness and charm that I called all my friends to come and view my wonderful creation. For weeks all I talked about was my beautiful house.

But suddenly something happened. A board cracked, and plaster started chipping, and walls became disarrayed. All my efforts to keep my house together failed. The more I nailed and painted and plastered, the more the house twisted and popped. Franti-



# LIVING HOUSE

BY ANNETTE HALE

cross the street men are busy building a new house. I like to watch them scurrying about, climbing scaffolds, nailing boards, raising huge planks in the air, slowly creating a beautiful building. I sit mesmerized for hours, hypnotically watching the work and dreaming about how it will look when it is finished. Will there be three bedrooms? How large is the garage? What kind of furniture will fill it? It reminds mc of the house I once built.

Ideas formed and grew until I had the plans completed. The blueprint was laid out and corrected, until I was satisfied. After the materials arrived, I busied myself with making my dream into reality.

I wanted a house—a big, beautiful house—that showed my personality and taste and fit my character. Each room would be decorated with draperies and carpets and furniture of the finest material.

cally I worked to keep anyone from knowing my house was coming apart.

Finally, in desperation, I called the master contractor. I poured out my woes, begging him to see what he could do. He agreed and immediately went to work pulling up boards, tearing down walls, and scraping off paint. I was simply horrified. "No! No!" I cried. "That's not the way it's done. Look at my plans—the blueprint I've made."

However, to my surprise, he only smiled and said that he had a blueprint of his own; mine wouldn't do. And he went back to work, pulling down boards, sawing, rebuilding, putting up windows instead of doors, leaving spaces where walls should be. I couldn't watch; it hurt me so to see my blucprint disregarded. What does he know? I thought. It's my house!

Then it was finished and I looked with awe. It was my house, but on a grander scale than I had ever imagined. My personality and taste were there, but the design was so much better than mine. The Master Builder had built a palace instead of a house. So I invited Him to live there. It was only fair. I merely furnished the materials—it was His design.

# **JUST ANOTHER KOOK**

## BY MARJORIE ZIMMERMAN

ou fall into one of two categories in this world," Becky said to herself. "You are cither a born leader or a born follower."

She was waiting for the 5:40 bus, along with a dozen others (her after-school piano lesson had delayed her longer than usual), and she had no illusions about which pigeonhole she belonged in.

On the other hand, she decided, the blonde boy pacing up and down on the sidewalk with his open Bible in his hands was a born leader. It took nerve to do what he was doing. Dressed in unbleached jeans and a clean white T-shirt, the street preacher faced all of them, quoting scriptures and talking about Jesus Christ being the only way of salvation from sin. He didn't appear to be more than a couple of years older than she was. He might be eighteen. She admired his disregard of the curled lips and occasional sniping from his captive audience.

I could never do that, she thought. She was a born follower. She had always been thankful that her last name was Zeller so that she would be at the end of every line and not up in front setting the pace. Her dad had a comfortable philosophy: "Sometimes there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."

That had satisfied her until a few months ago, when she had trusted Christ as her Savior. Christ welcomed followers, of course; but she had seen right away that here was one place where leaders were



necessary. Maybe now that she belonged to Him He would just automatically make her a leader.

But somehow it hadn't worked out that way. Her brother Dan became president of the Youth Fellowship soon after he was saved; and her friend Marcy was song leader for the High School Department at church; but Becky was still trailing along behind like a little sheep, thankful not to be singled out.

Did the blonde boy mind standing out there all alone, talking about the peace of heart that had come to him when he was cleansed from his sins? It couldn't be easy to share such things with people like these, who sat here on the wall looking bored or irritated —or worse, simply ignoring him as they read newspapers, chewed gum, and talked to each other.

"Just another kook," the man next to Becky yawned, grinding his cigarette stub under his heel.

A pang went through her, stronger than the anger his words caused. There was the boy, proclaiming the name of Jesus because he loved Him, and because he cared about these people. She loved Christ too. She was

on His side and the boy's. So why was she sitting here like a dummy among these who were against Him?

She hesitated a moment longer, then got up and marched over to the young preacher. "Thank you for what you're saying. It's all true." She raised her voice. "I know, because Jesus is my Savior too."

The boy grasped her hand. "That's great!"

Before he could say more, an older woman came up and shook his hand. "I'm for you, young man. We need more of your kind."

There was gratitude in the blondc boy's smile. "You don't know how it helps to have someone tell you that. Mostly people don't say anything, even when they believe in what I'm preaching."

Becky was glad she'd spoken to him. She'd never make a street preacher; she wasn't cut out for that. Still, that didn't really matter too much. The Lord needed followers, too. He'd had eleven true ones whom He dearly loved. She guessed followers were pretty important, after all.

#### BY CATHERINE MANN

s Dan and his friend, John, were strolling home from high school, John's eyes focused on the

"Say," Dan said brightly, "why don't Barbara and I piek you and Joan up tonight and all of us go over to Joe's for hamburgers? I have the ear for an hour and a half."

John looked even more dismal. Then he ran his hands into his poekets and pulled them wrong side out. Empty.

Dan watched, shaking his head. "It's that bad, huh?"

Glumly John nodded.

The high cost of dating is troublesome for many high school boys. Their hard luck friends travel in the same boat. All suffer from a chronic shortage of eash. Like everything else, dating has not escaped inflation. The rising costs of treats, even hamburgers, plague a boy who wants to date his girl friend.

What's a boy to do? Shrug his shoulders hopelessly? Give up dating? No, no, never! The secret of having money is manageability.

How to make the income match the outgo becomes the big question. There *are* ways to keep pockets jingling instead of being soundlessly silent.

Whether his money comes from earnings, from an allowance, from gifts, or from any other source, a boy needs to handle his money wisely and with a steady hand. There are methods of stretching the supply. No, not by magie. But it's only sensi-

# HOW YOU CAN DATE WITH LESS DOLLARS



ble to be "centsible." There are ways to keep a wallet from being as flat as the proverbial pancake.

Gary, a redheaded sophomore, resolved to find out where his money was going. He wanted to know if there was a hole in his pocket which leaked cash, so he decided to do some checking.

At his favorite drive-in a banana split cost one dollar and five cents. He could buy a chocolate soda for fifty cents. (Prices vary in different localities.)

He reasoned that he got as much tasting pleasure from the half-dollar confection as he did the more expensive dish. By buying the cheaper treat, he could save fifty-five cents.

Amazed, Gary learned from this figuring to keep simple accounts. He chose a small pocketsize notebook, lined it off in two columns, and jotted down date, purchase, and amount.

Gary wasn't the first person ever to do this. We are told that John D. Rockefeller, Sr., as a boy earning one dollar a week in Cleveland, Ohio, kept a detailed account of every penny earned and spent.

Gary was amazed at some of the foolish articles he bought. Some purchases he could do without—for instance, a toy green snake he used to scare the girls. When he overcame the temptation to buy something he did not especially want, he transferred that sum to his left pocket. "The quarter bank," he called it. Pretty soon the left pocket began to bulge. This was important

because Gary bought gas for the family car whenever he drove it, and somehow it seemed to drink gasoline as fast as Gary drank milk.

Gary found out how wonderful it was when he saved enough to invite his date to a nice restaurant for her birthday celebration. It was great not having to worry over paying the check. He watched his dimes grow into dollars with glee.

He decided that a worthwhile girl likes you for your qualities rather than what you are able to spend on her. She will not hold your financial status against you if you are open about it. If you can't afford an expense, say so. Don't act like a phony; a boy can get into deep water if he does.

If you are down to countable coins and can't buy hamburgers and milk shakes, suggest an afternoon walk in the park or some other pleasant place and, perhaps a soda pop at the end.

Why not do like George did? Organize a bicycle club. Girls like cycling as much as boys. Many parks have set aside nature trails and bicycle paths for the using. A bicycle ride can be stimulating, exciting, good exercise, and great fun. All it costs is a little foot power, unless you buy something to eat or drink along the way. The money you save can add up more quickly than you think.

So acquaint your date ahead of time about the state of your finances. She'll feel flattered to be taken into your confidence, and perhaps she'll suggest a fun-filled evening which costs you nothing. One night Debra invited the youth group of her church to her home for a sing-in. Two boys brought their guitars. At the end she served homemade cookies, which she had baked, and mugs of hot chocolate with marshmallows afloat.

Another time the boys brought hot dogs for a cookout on the patio in her backyard. The girls furnished fixings for the hot dogs and bottled drinks cooling in a tub of ice.

On a chilly autumn evening Nancy asked her Sunday school class to come to her home for games and a popcorn feast. And how fragrant the corn smelled as the couples took turns popping it!

Mack was bogged down in a financial hole. Embarrassed at first, he finally found the courage to discuss it with those who loved him best, his parents. They suggested a part-time job at home, for which they would pay him. And in the meantime, to tide him over the shortage, they advanced a loan.

An alert boy can meet the inflated cost of dating by using that oval-shaped instrument atop his neck, commonly called a head. It will furnish idea-substitutes for cash or little cash.

Bring the problem out in the open; discuss it with other boys. (Three, five, or ten heads are better than one.) Look for your thinking cap and put it on. Dial your thinking power for dollars. You'll have more of them to spend—and more fun. Moreover, you'll beat the HCD (high cost of dating).



# THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

# Study Eight

A study series for youth on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in guaranteeing Christian liberty

#### BY J. RALPH BREWER

Youth and CE Director, Michigan

Purpose: To show that the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit in the everyday life of the believer

Introduction: In Study 7 we discussed the significance of speaking with tongues in relationship to the Spirit-filled life. In this lesson we will discuss the importance of the fruit of the Spirit. While speaking with tongues is the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism, the fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of His continuing presence.

# I. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IDENTIFIES THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE (Read Galatians 5.)

In Galatians 5 the Apostle Paul presents a graphic contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. Listing seventeen evil works, he presents the walk of the flesh as a self-centered, pleasure-seeking life-style that totally disregards the will of God. It is neither victorious nor productive and breeds constant trouble and sadness for the one who yields to its ever-increasing demands. On the other hand, the walk of the Spirit is presented as one of contentment and completeness. It is victorious and abundant, and by continued submission to the leadership of the Spirit, the ninefold cluster of fruit will be produced in the Christian life.

# II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT BEAUTIFIES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

The nine fruit of the Spirit are listed below.

- 1. Love
- 2. Joy
- 3. Peace
- 4. Long-suffering (patience)
- 5. Gentleness (kindness)
- 6. Goodness
- 7. Faith
- 8. Meekness (humility)
- 9. Temperance (self-control)

The first three fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace) are manifestations of the believer's relationship to Christ. The second three (long-suffering, gentleness, goodness) are to be expressed in relationship to others. The third group (faith, meekness, temperance) are qualities which are necessary if we are to live a victorious Christian life in this world. What beautiful qualities! Every Christian teenager should seek to cultivate these graces in his daily life.

#### III. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SIGNIFIES CHRISTIAN PROGRESS (Read John 15.)

In this passage Jesus speaks of "fruit" (John 15:2), "more fruit" (John 15:2), and "much fruit" (John 15:5, 8). Comparing these scriptures with Galatians 5:22, 23, it seems quite evident that it is God's plan for the Christian life to be both progressive and productive. Every Christian is to be a "tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3). The harvest of the Spirit can and will be produced in your life as you fully yield to His life-giving power.

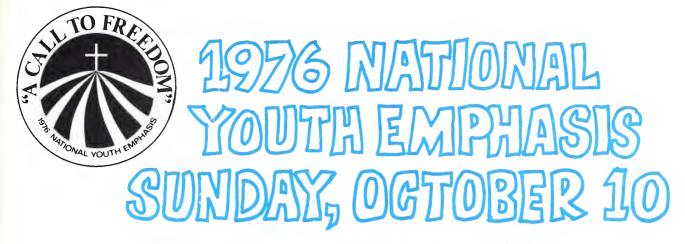
#### ASSIGNMENT

(After carefully reading and studying all the Scripture passages in this lesson, complete the following exercise.)

1. List three of the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2. List the nine fruit of the Spirit.
- 3. What fruit of the Spirit do you feel you are lacking in your life?
- 4. Write out and memorize John 15:16.



# Phase Five · Planning Guide

## LOOKING AHEAD

"A Call to Freedom" offers your church opportunities to perform four vital ministries for your youth.

A Ministry of Education—This year's National Youth Emphasis continues the successful practice of installing individual young people in positions of responsibility throughout the church for one day. They will play key roles in administration, leadership, and teaching. While one day's activity offers limited training opportunity, it affords insight into church operation that nothing else can give. The seeds of desire, motivation, and confidence are often planted in a single meaningful experience. Scores of today's teachers and officers in local congregations of the Church of God had their first involvement with the position they now hold when the church observed a youth emphasis Sunday in the past.

A Ministry of Encouragement—More, perhaps, than older Christians who have served God for many years, young people need the constant assistance of their brothers and sisters in the faith. The heartening, helpful word from a fellow Christian is extremely important to young people, and they respond to it. The 1976 National Youth Emphasis provides encouragement by placing young people in the spotlight and lauding their contributions to the activities and ministries of the church.

A Ministry of Evangelism—While the primary thrust of "A Call to Freedom" is directed to young people who are already within the church, its basic appeal will reach out to encompass teens who do not attend church and will provide a chance to get them involved and associated with what is going on in your church. This may naturally lead to further

efforts toward direct evangelism. If, for instance, an unsaved youngster is invited to the breakfast and remains for Sunday school, there is a good likelihood that he will be attracted to a service in which an altar appeal is given; or, perhaps, he may become acquainted with someone who can personally deal with him about his spiritual condition.

#### ADVANCE PLANNING

One single day on which the youth of the church will be both involved and honored will not be difficult to arrange if a few simple plans are made in advance.

One person—preferably the youth leader or pastor, or one whom he designates—should serve as the coordinator for all National Youth Emphasis activities on October 10. This one individual will be an ex officio member of each planning group.

You will notice that if you follow the full program for the day as it is outlined here, the youth will be involved in four different activities: (1) a breakfast, (2) Sunday school, (3) morning worship, and (4) the evening service.

It is suggested that three groups be designated to arrange these activities: One for the breakfast, one for Sunday school, and one for the church services. It is vitally important for the coordinator to know the plans of each group; this will prevent time conflicts and will help insure that various young people, rather than just the same few, are involved in each activity.

The coordinator should be named and the planning groups selected by September 1. These planning groups are identified and their functions are explained in the following pages. Read these suggestions carefully before deciding who will be in each group.

# 1. A CALLTO FREEDOM ... through encounter

#### Freedom Breakfast

A Sunday morning breakfast for the youth of the church and their teachers and sponsors will start the day off right. If your church has a kitchen and dining area, you may wish to serve the meal there; if not, a local restaurant may be the best site.

Here are some hints for those in charge:

- A committee of three should be named to plan the breakfast—preferably two teens and one adult.
- If the breakfast is to be served at the church, enlist helpers to prepare and serve the food (perhaps a volunteer group from the Ladies Auxiliary) and another group (perhaps from among the teens themselves) to clean up after the meal.
- 3. The breakfast planning group will decide upon the menu, look into sources of money for the

food (with the advice of the pastor), outline the program, and publicize the event. If the breakfast must be held away from the church, they will make the advance reservations at the restaurant. Some groups will want the teens to pay for the meal themselves, while others may wish to finance it from some church source.

- 4. The breakfast activity must be planned in careful detail so it will not interfere with Sunday school or any other function of the day.
- 5. A program should be developed around the theme "A Call to Freedom." The following notes about the abuse of freedom may be helpful for the person chosen to speak to the youth after they have eaten the meal. If the speaker does not choose to use this outline, he should relate his remarks to the freedom theme.

#### THE ABUSE OF FREEDOM

**INTRODUCTION:** Freedom—whether national or spiritual—is purchased at great cost. It is tragic, then, when freedom is taken for granted. But it is true that freedom may be abused. How?

# I. FREEDOM MAY BE ABUSED BY IGNORANCE.

- A. The world was amazed to hear about a Japanese soldier, found recently, who had remained in hiding on a Pacific island for nearly twenty-five years since World War II because he did not know the outcome of the war.
- B. The blessings of spiritual deliverance insure that every bond of sin is severed, but some do not realize the freedom they have in Christ—freedom from sin, fear, etc. They abuse freedom by their ignorance of it.

# II. FREEDOM MAY BE ABUSED BY NEGLECT.

A. Every adult American may vote, but millions abuse this precious freedom by failing to cast a ballot.

B. Spiritual freedom in Christ allows every believer to enter the presence of God in prayer, but many abuse this freedom by neglect.

# III. FREEDOM MAY BE ABUSED BY CARELESSNESS.

- A. Every American citizen is guaranteed certain rights by virtue of the Constitution with its Bill of Rights. He has freedom of speech, etc.
- B. Christians, too, have certain rights (and responsibilities) which they may abuse, or even forfeit, by carelessness. They may speak to lost souls about the freedom Christ gives, but their carelessness may cause lost opportunities.

**CONCLUSION:** The call to freedom comes to every child of God. Let us answer the call and not abuse the freedoms which are ours.

(These notes are basically starters, and speakers are encouraged to develop the ideas further to communicate about the call to freedom.)

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT FORM	On Sunday, October 10, you will be asked to substitute for me as
	Signed

### 2. A CALL TO FREEDOM... through education

### Sunday School

The key word for the Sunday school activity on October 10 is planning.

At least three weeks ahead of time, the pastor, Sunday school superintendent, and youth leader should sit down together and map out detailed plans for youth involvement. Here is a good approach.

- 1. First, list all the positions in the Sunday school, including officers and teachers. Beside the title of the position, list the adult who presently fills it. Leave room in the last column to write the name of the teens who will serve in the positions.
- On a separate piece of paper, list all the Christian young people in the church. Prayerfully considering the abilities and talents of each one, decide which position each can best fill and enter his name on the list described above.
- 3. Using the suggested format on the next page, write out the assignment for each teen. (This is a step some churches omit, because it takes several minutes to prepare these assignment slips. However, the young people will feel much more confident and assured if they know exactly what they are to do, and this system lets them know.)
- 4. Give each young person's assignment slip to the adult whom he will replace, and instruct the adult to get in touch with the young person and discuss in detail what his responsibilities will be.
- 5. Publicize ahead of time by pulpit announcements, church bulletin, etc., that young people will be filling the positions. Since this type of Youth Emphasis Sunday activity is a novelty in the

church world, you may wish to advise the local newspaper (at least two weeks in advance) of your church plans. An enterprising newspaper reporter may recognize the story value in an event of this nature and provide you with news coverage.

6. Request adults to be at their regular place of duty but to occupy the "sidelines" while the young people carry out their duties (they should remain available for help or comment, if needed).

### HINTS FOR YOUTH SUBSTITUTES

- 1. Be sure you understand exactly what is expected of you.
- 2. Know where you are to meet the adult for whom you are substituting.
- 3. Go over the details of your assignment carefully, asking questions when you are unsure.
- Be assured that the adult for whom you are substituting will be at hand so that if any unexpected difficulties may arise, you will have assistance.
- 5. Study carefully and diligently, if your assignment involves teaching. One of the best ways to prepare to teach is to share the lesson beforehand with an individual (perhaps a member of your family). This is, in effect, a practice-teaching session that will help you to get ready for the real thing.
- Approach your assignment prayerfully and with an awareness that you are engaged in a spiritual ministry. Ask God to give you special ability to do the task.

### 3. A CALLTO FREEDOM ... through encouragement

### Morning Worship

Two aspects of the morning worship service will point up youth involvement:

- Recognition by the pastor of worthy participation by young people in church, school, and civic activities
- 2. Participation by the young people themselves in the worship service

In planning for the morning worship service, the pastor, the coordinator for Youth Day, and one young person should meet to consider the accomplishments of the church young people. As a result of their meeting, a Church Youth Honor Roll should be framed (the name of each teen who has been involved in church, school, or civic activities should be listed, along with a sentence or two describing the involvement).

The names on this honor roll should be read during the service, and each young person should be asked to stand for recognition. It is easy to overlook participation by youth in unpublicized activities so great care should be taken to make the list complete. Probably the best way to discover teen involvement is to ask an individual to conduct telephone interviews with parents, explaining the purpose of National Youth Emphasis and the honor roll and asking for information about club memberships, fund drives, school accomplishments, etc. Incidentally, the telephone contact will help to enhance attendance at the youth service.

Arrangements for youth participation in the worship service should include writing out the order of service and indicating the responsibilities of each young person. A sample order of worship is given, but you are encouraged to develop a typical service like you usually have—one with which the teens are familiar.

A word of exhortation is in order at this point. Some churches may view the National Youth Emphasis as a "program" the church is carrying out. In actuality, this may be one of the most spiritual services on the church calendar, with the young people vitally involved in spiritual leadership. Urge them to approach their duties prayerfully with a desire to be used of God in the service.

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

- 11:00 Worship in song (youth music director, musicians, etc., if available)
- 11:15 Recognition of young people on Church Youth Honor Roll
- 11:25 Offering (received by youth)
  Special music (provided by youth)
- 11:35 Sermon (preached by a young person, or directed to youth by pastor)

### 4. A CALLTO FREEDOM. . . through evangelism

### **Evening Service**

After the excitement and involvement of a full day of youth activity, the evening service will provide opportunity for a dramatic spiritual climax to the National Youth Emphasis.

Again, this service should involve young people in positions of leadership. Most meaningful, perhaps, may be a time of testimonies, when selected youth are given the chance to come to the pulpit and share the witness of their faith with the congregation.

Taking the cue from the theme "A Call to Freedom" you may ask a couple of young people to testify about what freedom in Christ means to them. Further, keying in on the word call, you may ask others to testify about their understanding of what Christ has called them as individuals to do. The testimonies of young people often have a contagious enthusiasm which will strike a spark in the hearts of other young people.

With a young person leading the music and others making announcements, serving as ushers, etc., the whole service will be youth-slanted. To insure broad cooperation from all possible youth, the same group who planned the participation in the morning service should outline the evening service.

It would also be fitting, in the context of this youth service, to challenge older Christians to strengthen the younger ones in their spiritual lives.

One church used this setting to allow their youngsters to "adopt" adult Christians with the adults covenanting to pray regularly for the teens throughout the coming months. This service ended with each teen and his "adopted" adult praying together at the altar.

The following suggested order of service will guide you in planning.

The sermon should be geared to youth and should include both an evangelistic opportunity and a chance for the young people to surrender to God's call upon their lives.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship (youth reads Scripture and leads prayer.)

Youth sing from hymnal.

Youth make announcements, receive prayer requests, etc.

Youth testimonies

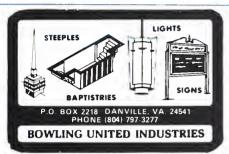
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—Robert J. Reesor, vice-president International Bible College Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Brother Polen,

If you will recall, I wrote to you about three months ago and asked if you could assist me in planning some interesting programs and lessons for young people to use in my high school's newly formed Prayer Club. . . .

I want you to know that the success of the Burch High School Prayer Club has been simply tremendous this year. I will mention a few things just briefly: Within the last three months we have had eight young people to give their lives to the Lord through and by the inspiration of the Prayer Club. We have distributed about two thousand tracts, and our school's enrollment is only about 550

Our prayer services, held each Thursday, have been anointed by the Lord in the past year; and it touches my heart to see the students respond as they hear about Christ. Praise the Lord! Our average prayer service attendance now is forty-five people. At the beginning of the year our average attendance was only seventeen. My, how the Lord has blessed! Through your help and the Lord's, we have had a wonderful time in the Prayer Club this year. And I would like also to say that I am glad to be a member of the great Church of God. In closing, I would like to express thanks for all of us students. . . . We truly thank you!

> Sincerely, Mitchell Bias, president Delbarton, West Virginia



### 1976 Teen Talent National Winner-Short Stories

### BY BELINDA FORD, Florida

he man, otherwise known as 235-762, walked hesitatingly by the passing erowds of people. He was a middle-aged man with misty, grey eyes that he squinted, hoping to protect them from the eontaminated air that made them burn. His skin appeared chalky white as a result of staying under the proteetion of air-conditioned, windowless buildings. His lips were held tightly together in a hard, stern line. The faint wrinkles around his face revealed that he had laughed—at a time when smiles were a common expression of eommunication. But as the years had progressed and the world of maehinery had advaneed, people had also changed. The evidence showed in the cold. expressionless faces that were masked in elear, plastic gas fil-

He glaneed at his watch. He realized that it was an hour before eurfew. He stopped before the station to wait for the monorail that usually transported him home after work. He drew out his token and nervously tossed it up into the air and let it fall baek into his hand. He felt strangely odd. It seemed as though an unknown force, far more powerful than he had ever felt, was possessing him. He put the token back into his poeket and began walking away from the station.

For some reason he felt compelled to walk home—something he rarely did, because of the high erime rate. He began to

# THE ETERNAL PROMISE

walk on a route which led through the ruins of the older part of the eity. He had been there only onee or twice before, but he well remembered the eeric feeling that the erumbling city had given him. As he approached the eity, he could see the old buildings looming up against the horizon. The sun would be setting in less than an hour. He hurried through the rusty iron gates that seemed to groan with age.

He began walking through the deserted streets that had onee been main transportation routes for ears, an invention of the past that had long since been replaced by the smog-free monorail. He stared in awe at the countless, unlit neon signs which once had glowed with a brightness that eould pieree through the blackest night. On a bank building among the tall skyscrapers, he could see the large faee of a clock with its hands frozen with time, never to move again. In the distance he could see pecling campaign billboards which boasted of promises that were never filled. Graffiti of profanity and rebellion marked the walls of everv building.

Eventually he saw the iron gates that led out of the eity. He walked a little faster, relieved at the thought of leaving the eity of yestervear.

But suddenly the lonely shadows of the skyserapers seemed to close in on him. He elutched at his mask desperately in an attempt to loosen the tightening fear that gripped his throat and seemed to squeeze the very breath of life out of him. He wanted to run back to the security of the present—but a power, stronger than his human will, restrained him. This same power gently urged him to turn back to a desolate building he had overlooked. As he walked toward the building he felt more relaxed, even though his brow was drenched in perspiration.

The building looked much like the others he had seen. But after he walked in, he sensed that the room held a strange quality that made it totally different from any other he had seen. The first thing his eyes noticed were the beautiful stained-glass windows. Even though they had been broken by vandals, they added an air of serenity to the sanctuary. He wiped the dust from one of the pews and sat down. After awhile he became aware that he had been in the same place many vears ago. Out of the silence he began to hear the faint sounds of voices softly singing. He couldn't remember where.

As the singing continued, he kept scarching his memory. But for what? Something that was lost? His eyes swept the room again and he suddenly remembered that it had been a place where he had come as an innocent, trusting child. He had prayed to an invisible God that had answered prayers many, many years ago. He dropped to his knees, and his tears began to flow like a fountain of water that had sprung from a dry desert.

Suddenly the singing ceased and a voice within began to speak. It wasn't an audible voice, but the reality of it could not be denied. It spoke of love, hope, and an eternal promise. He became aware of a Presence, and he no longer felt alone. He had finally found the treasure he had been unconsciously searching for —something that had been buried deep in the sands of modernization and progress. He rejoiced at the thought of keeping it forever and of sharing it with the world. He slowly arose and walked toward the door.

As he walked out, a soft ray of light shining through the stainedglass windows touched him. He stepped into the evening light and looked up into the skies. To his amazement he saw that the sun was no longer concealed by the dark mist but was now shining brightly. He smiled and his countenance took on a new glow. He walked through the gates, unafraid. The eternal promise burned within him.

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Alan Hathaway	West Minat	Narth Dakata
Renee Stauffer	Princetan	West Virginia
ARTICLES AND ESSAYS		
Winner		
Cindy L. Sharp	Waadbridge	Virginia
Honorable Mention		
Steve Peterman	Milfard	Delaware
Lance Calkmire	Dade City	Flarida
PLAYS AND SKITS		
Winner		
Mark Stauffer	Reamstawn	Pennsylvania
Hanoroble Mention		
Teresa Caile	Narth Cleveland	Tennessee
Sherry Tewell	Hi-Way	Illinais
POETRY		
Winner		
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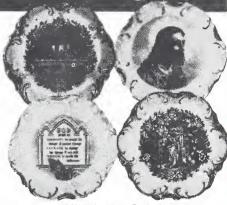
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## THE SPIRITUAL WITNESS

EUGENE A. RICE, JR., Alabama

1976 Teen Talent National Winner—Poetry

When I behold the sea, the sky, the land, How well I know . . . How well I understand . . . That God's omniscience is Incomprehensible to man; That natural man Can never understand Creative power, Universality, God's gift of everlasting life, Man's destiny, Salvation for the lost. The triune plan. But. Breath of Life . . . God's great Spirit-Gift Does waft my senses Far beyond the carnal Lift of man. Then I and Spirit, Walking hand in hand, Do bridge the gap of all man's vanity And walk with God In Christ's humanity. I, prostrate there in meek humility, Through faith, Am lifted far beyond natural reality; Am, by His grace, Partaker of divinity; Am made to know Of all infinity. I'm made to feel His Omnipresence, Omnipower. I'm made to know His **Omniscience** In that hour. I'm made to live A holy life; And then. I'm made to share This love . . . This news . . . With men.

### CINDY L. SHARP, Virginia

1976 Teen Talent National Winner—Articles and Essays

### OF ARROGANCE

rrogance is the product of an ignorant mind—ignorance not of learning or knowledge nor even of worldly experience, but ignorance of wisdom. Though he be the most learned scholar, the arrogant man is a simpleton by his own proclamation. Without the slightest prompting, he will gladly shout

Without the slightest prompting, he will gladly shout his lack of understanding to the world with much pride and eloquence. Yes, he is blind, deaf, and dumb

and takes great delight in sharing the fact.

Of all men, he is most deserving of pity, for his deficiencies are not simply physical. His blindness hinders more than vision, extending to the soul where man perceives the image of God. His deafness reaches beyond mere hearing to muffle his understanding. If offered advice of wisdom, he cannot interpret the words; they are only indistinguishable noises to him. But saddest of all is his inability to speak. Oh, he is indeed given to lengthy discourse, and no word falters from his confident lips; but neither is a nail hammered with reluctance by an able carpenter. His message is always a resounding blow in defiance of reply.

Pride, too, is a trademark of the arrogant. He strides easily through the darkness, unaware that darkness exists. Since he cannot perceive his error, he feels that there is no error. In his eyes, humility is a dangerous luxury that can only be afforded by those with no appetite for material success. Hesitation is weakness, and aggression is the only means to achievement.

The life of the arrogant is filled with pomp and ceremony. Importance is a prized dainty, savored with great relish. Title, position, wealth—all measures of worth—are stacked carefully upon velvet pedestals to be whispered over and boisterously denied. One's value is judged as is the weight of gold or the carats of a diamond—only the most obvious is apparent to the arrogant man who has little time in which to judge character.

If one would desire to turn from arrogance, he has only one hope. He must turn to God, the Giver of Wisdom, in faith and accept Christ, the Word, as his wealth. Blinding darkness will be dispelled with the brilliance of wisdom and insight. Deafness will be replaced with the joy of understanding, and the one who was mute will speak the mind of Christ! "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:5, 6).

## CAST: Leader (Head of the youth group) Members of the youth group:

### BY MARK STAUFFER, Pennsylvania

1976 Teen Talent National Winner—Plays and Skits

Alan Richard Barbera Linda

Debbie-Tom

Additional characters:

Harold (An elderly man) Esther (Harold's wife) Larson (Another elderly man)

### SCENE 1

(This scene takes place in a small room. A group of young people are seated, and the leader is standing up front.)

LEADER: Okay, the reason I called you here together tonight is that I'd like to find out what we should do about Christmas caroling this year. You know, just tell me if you want to go, or if you don't want to go, or whatever. (*There are several seconds of silence.*) Well, don't everybody jump at once. (A boy in the rear raises his hand.) Yes, Alan.

ALAN: I think we ought to go caroling this year. RICHARD (disgustedly): You gotta be kidding!

ALAN: Why don't you want to go?

RICHARD: Look, what's the sense of it? All we do is go out there and nearly freeze to death, and nobody appreciates it anyway.

LINDA: Yeah, I agree.

BARBERA: What do you mean . . . nobody? Remember two years ago when that lady invited us in and told us how much she enjoyed our singing? And last year, that other elderly lady said that her children used to sing in a choir, and it just thrilled her to know that some young people are still using their voices for God.

LINDA: Oh, wow, we gotta go out there and freeze just so a couple of old ladies can get their thrills.

RICHARD: Besides, that's only two. Most people couldn't care less.

ALAN: But I think it's our duty to go caroling just for the people who do appreciate it (a slight pause of silence).

LEADER: What do you think, Tom?

TOM (expressionless): Huh?

LEADER: What do you think we ought to do?

TOM: About what?

LEADER (with a tone of authority): Look, why don't you wake up and get into this. Now I want to know . . . do you think we ought to go caroling this year or not?

TOM: I don't care.

LEADER: Okay (*slight pause*) Debbie, what do you think we ought to do?

DEBBIE: I think we oughta.

LEADER: You think we ought to what? Go caroling or stay home?

DEBBIE: Stay home. LEADER: Why?

DEBBIE: It's too cold.

LEADER: Perhaps you people would rather go Christmas caroling in the summer!

LINDA: Sounds all right to me.

LEADER: Should we just give up the idea, then, and say there wasn't enough interest?

ALAN: No, I think we ought to go.

BARBERA: I think we ought to go, too. And as far as it being too cold—when you're out there having fun, you never complain about the temperature; but when it comes to caroling, then it's too cold (a few seconds of silence).

LEADER: I'll tell you what. Let's take a vote. All in favor of caroling, raise your hand. (Alan and Bar-

bera raise their hands.)

ALAN: Come on, Tom, vote for it.

TOM: Oh, I guess so. (Tom raises his hand.)

RICHARD: You don't wanna go caroling, do you?

TOM: Might as well. It's better than sitting at home doing nothing.

LEADER: Okay then, can I assume that the rest of you don't want to go? (*Linda*, *Debbie*, and *Richard nod in approval*.) Okay then, it looks like it's all tied up, so I'll have to break the tie. I'll vote for it.

LINDA (disgustedly): Oh, boy.

LEADER: I guess we'll be going then.

ALAN: Good!

LINDA (muttering): I ain't going.

LEADER: If at all possible, everybody be here. We'll meet here at the church at . . . oh, let's say, eight o'clock. Does that suit everybody? (A few people mutter approvals.)

LEADER: I guess that's it then. Alan, will you dis-

miss us with a word of prayer.

ALAN: Dear God, we thank You for Your love You

showed to us by sending Your Son, Jesus, to be born on this earth so He could die on the cross for our sins. Lord, we pray that You will be with us as we go caroling this year, that we may be able to show someone the real meaning of Christmas, and that we may be a blessing to some soul. Keep us safe until we meet again. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

(The kids leave, talking casually with each other.)

SCENE 2

(It is Christmas Eve. The kids leave the church and start walking up the street to begin their caroling.)

RICHARD: If we accomplish as little this year as we have in the past, I am definitely not going next year.

DEBBIE: The same here.

LINDA: Look, Alan, if we're able to be a blessing to just one person this year, which is very unlikely, I'll admit that you are right. If not, I won't go next year either.

ALAN: We haven't even started yet.

BARBERA: Let's try that house down the street where the new people moved in. Here will be our chance to show them that our church is doing something. TOM: Okay.

(The kids walk up to the house and start singing "Joy to the World." As soon as that song ends, they start singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Linda glances into the window and notices something.)

LINDA: They're not listening to us at all.

DEBBIE: Let mc see. (She takes a look.) Yeah, they're just playing cards. (Richard looks too.)

RICHARD: Yeah, they're just ignoring us.

TOM: Let's go somewhere else.

ALAN: Let's try old Mr. Larson's place. He's always kinda grouchy. Maybe some Christmas carols would soften him up.

RICHARD: I don't believe anything would soften

him up

BARBERA: Well, it's worth a try. (The group starts walking toward Larson's house. When they arrive there, they start singing "Away in a Manger." When they are about halfway through, they are interrupted by Mr. Larson.)

LARSON (loud and rough): What in the world do

you characters think you're doing?

ALAN (after a slight pause): We thought that maybe some Christmas carols would help get you into

the spirit of Christmas.

LARSON: Bah, humbug! There is nothing like the spirit of Christmas. Christmas is just a big money racket. Now you kids get out of here before I get the shotgun to you. Let me get some sleep so I can go to work in the morning. (The kids start moving away slowly.) Go on, move; and don't ever let me ever catch you near my property again! (The

group runs away. A little later they stop running, but they are still puffing.)

LINDA (with a tone of sarcasm): Well, Alan, do you notice how many souls we've blessed so far?

ALAN: We've only gone to two houses.

RICHARD: Well I'm willing to quit.

DEBBIE: Me, too.

ALAN: Look, why don't we try one more place. If we get the same response we got at the last two places, we'll quit.

LEADER: I know where we ought to go.

BARBERA: Where?

LEADER: The little cabin on Stoney Lane, where that old couple lives.

RICHARD: That's almost two miles from here.

BARBERA: So, you're always bragging about being in such good physical condition.

RICHARD (disgustedly): Okay, I'll go. (They exit.) SCENE 3

(This scene takes place in the house of the old couple.)

ESTHER (feebly): It looks like John won't be coming this year.

HAROLD: Now, Esther, you know he's always been a good son. He'll be here.

ESTHER: But it's Christmas Eve. John's never waited this long before.

HAROLD: Maybe he was delayed.

ESTHER: But you'd think he would have called, or something.

HAROLD: Maybe he didn't think to call. You know how kids are.

ESTHER (*starts crying*): I just know he won't come. Since he's become a successful businessman, he doesn't even think about us anymore. (*She sniffs quietly*.)

HAROLD: I guess you're right. (*He starts crying*.) It seems like nobody cares for us anymore, since we're too old to be useful.

ESTHER: Sometimes I wish I were dead.

HAROLD: Now Esther, it's not going to help anything to talk that way.

ESTHER: I know, but there's not a soul on earth that cares about us. O Harold, I'm so lonely. (Esther bursts into tears. Just then they hear the group of young people start to sing "Silent Night.")

HAROLD (after listening a few moments): Do you hear that, Esther? I believe they're singing for us.

(He starts to wipe his eyes.)

ESTHER: Could it be? (They listen intently until "Silent Night" is ended. As the carolers start to sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem," the couple gets up and walks toward the window to look out.) Isn't that sweet? They came all the way down here to sing for us. (She starts to suiff again. They stand by the window looking out until the song is over. Then Harold opens the door and looks out.)

HAROLD: That was beautiful, children, just beautiful. Do come in. (*The kids file inside*.)

ESTHER: Your singing was lovely (*sniff*). It was so kind of you to come all the way down here to sing for us. You're the only ones in the world who care at all about us. Before you came, we were so lonely.

ALAN: No, we're not the only ones in the world who care about you. Someone cares for you much more than we possibly could.

HAROLD: Who is this? Who cares for us?

ALAN: God does. He cares for us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to be born on the earth on that first Christmas Day so He could die on the cross for you. He did this because He loved you so. If you'll just accept Him into your life and let Him be your Savior, you'll no longer be lonely. You'll have a peace inside like you've never had before! And when you die, He'll take you home to heaven to live with Him forever. Will you accept Him today?

HAROLD: Oh, yes, we'd love to.

ESTHER: How can we accept Him?

ALAN: Just repeat after me (pause). Dear Lord, HAROLD AND ESTHER (feebly): Dear Lord,

ALAN: I confess that I'm a sinner,

HAROLD AND ESTHER: I confess that I'm a sinner,

ALAN: And I'm sorry for my sins.

HAROLD AND ESTHER: And I'm sorry for my sins.

ALAN: Please forgive me,

HAROLD AND ESTHER: Please forgive me,

ALAN: And come into my heart.

HAROLD AND ESTHER: And come into my heart.

ALAN: In Jesus' name I ask it,

HAROLD AND ESTHER: In Jesus' name I ask it, ALAN: Amen.

HAROLD AND ESTHER: Amen.

ESTHER: Oh, I feel so much better.

HAROLD: Me, too! I have a peace within my heart like I've never had before. Thank you, young people, for leading us to God.

ESTHER (after a slight pause of silence): Would you

like something to eat or drink?

RICHARD: No, thank you. We really must be going. LINDA: Richard's right. We have a lot more places to go.

DEBBIE: Believe me, I too am convinced that Christmas caroling is necessary.

RICHARD: That's for sure. Christmas caroling is here to stay.

LEADER: Well, let's get going.

BARBERA: Well, good-bye.

ESTHER: Good-bye.

HAROLD: And thanks again for leading us to God. (They leave singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas.")

THE END

Desk of the Editor

Chine M. Buston

### GETTING AN EDUCATION

SHOEMAKER WAS shown a great painting. His only remark was, "Look at them shoes." The soul of the picture—the scheme, the colorings, the lines-meant nothing to him. He was dead to the rapture of art. His untrained eye and ear conveyed no message to his soul; and his interest was in what he knew about, that is, making shoes. Shoemaking is an honorable occupation, but it is possible for a person to know other things as well as the trade. The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade; but through study and experience, he had a vast knowledge of varied subjects. For example, he had taken time to learn what the Greek religion taught, and this knowledge helped him tremendously when he preached the sermon on Mar's Hill. In fact, he probably could not have preached the message if he had not known the Greek religion.

A well-trained person should be a more efficient preacher, Sunday school teacher, or youth worker, provided that he sanctify his learning and, with humility, dedicate it fully to God's glory. On the contrary, a person who gets some training and arrogantly leaves the impression that he knows absolutely everything will be a hindrance to God's cause and a nuisance to those about him. Let it be known that God expects more of men than just formal training, for He can find such persons throughout the country. The need of the church today is trained men who are dedicated to God. The church needs men who not only know how to study, but also know how to pray; who not only know how to build a sermon, but also know how to live one; who not only know what other religions teach, but also know what Jehovah expects from His followers; who not only know how to spend hours in researching a subject, but also know how to spend hours alone with God in prayer and fasting as he learns God's ways. There is a dearth in the land for men of this quality.

Christian youth should purpose in their hearts to get an education, whatever the cost. During their training they can be examples for Christ on the campus, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit; and when they enter their life's work, whatever the work may be, they will be more effective for God if they have an education. Upon reaching maturity, a youth may teach a Sunday school class, or he may even preach without a great deal of formal training. However, a trained person will usually develop the Sunday school lesson text or the sermon text more effectively if he knows geography, history, sociology, and other such subjects.

It takes genuine perseverance to get an education. The route to obtaining a high school or college diploma is not a smooth one; and self-discipline is imperative. However, the results are worth the cost. Someone evaluated education as follows: (1) It develops mental power, personal talent, and personality. (2) It builds stores of knowledge. (3) It develops the sense of cultural values. (4) It trains for citizenship. (5) It trains for usefulness. 6) It increases income. (7) It develops spiritual values. So in this enlightened day youths should learn all they can and should "can" all they learn, striving to be well-informed persons, dedicated to God. The world and the church will always have a place for such people.

Church of God

## MATIONAL YOUTH EMPLIASIS



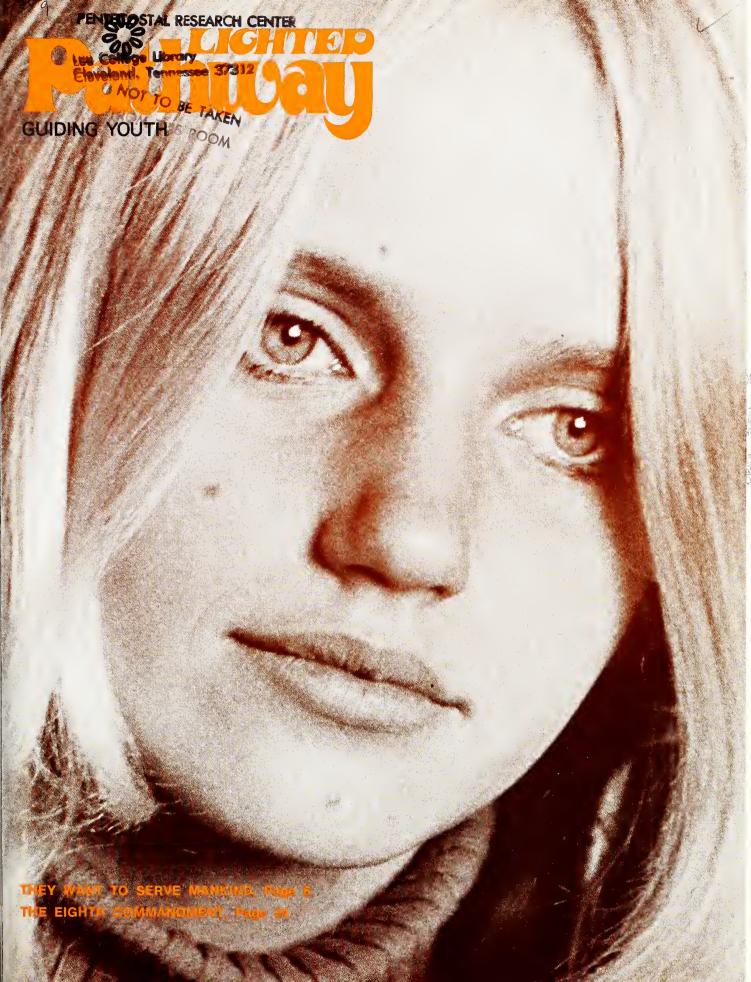


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## WHY NOT OVERCOME?

BY SHIRLEY DEVER

t is refreshing when a U.S. Senator admits that "God comes first and country second." At

fifty-one, Senator Harold Hughes from Iowa has changed his course. He is giving up politics so that he can "work full time for God." He says, "God's calling is greater than the political one."

This kind of Christian attitude among young people makes the impossible possible.

Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). Things start to happen when young people in all circumstances and in all walks of life take the Lord Jesus up on this incredible promise!

Long ago Thomas Edison had a dream to light cities with electricity. Men called this idea ridiculous. Yet the persevering Edison made his dream become a reality. In December 1879 he charted a special train which transported three thousand people to Menlo Park, New Jersey. Here they were able to see for themselves an entire town lighted by electricity.

One of my favorite songs is "The Impossible Dream." Youth who make the impossible become possible have made the last two lines of this unforgettable song come true: "And the world will be better for this; that one man, scorned and covered with scars, still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars."

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, known as the father of the nuclear submarine, made some fascinating comments in front of a Senate committee. Here are a few of them: "For the person who strives to excel, to shoulder responsibility, and to speak out, there is an enemy wherever he turns. The enemy is a man who has a total willingness to delegate his worries to officialdom. To struggle against these enemies, and against apathy and mediocrity, is to find the purpose in life."

How fortunate youth are that through the ages a few courageous men and women have been willing to try to reach the unreachable star!

In his book All Things Are Possible Through Prayer, Charles L. Allen writes, "The supreme tragedy of most people is that they want so little and they are satisfied with almost nothing. . . . A lot of people arc satisfied just to be alive. They have no high dreams and lofty hopes, no great ambitions and burning desircs. Someone took a survey and found that nine out of ten people have no definite plan in life. They just drift along and are content with whatever comes. Wanting nothing, they pray for nothing."

Rose Kennedy is living proof that a person can endure one tragedy after another and overcome them. She paced up and down the beach after she lost her son Jack, our late President. After Robert's assassination, she learned the value of keeping busy and also that physical activity is an antidote for despair. Besides losing her two renowned sons at the hands

of assassins, she lost her son Joe in World War II and her daughter Kathleen soon thereafter in a plane crash. Rosemary, one of her daughters, is retarded and resides in a special home. Her husband, Joe, is gone now too; so Rose is alone as never before. Yet she lives on and demonstrates that a mother can live a fulfilling life despite almost unbelievable personal tragedy!

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Many young people who live effective lives in the wake of many tragedies have developed the right Christian attitude toward adversity. In How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious, Fritz Ridenour explains the significance of tragedies in the Christian life as follows: "He [God] sends circumstances into our lives, circumstances that work much as a sculptor works on stone—chipping away that temper, trimming away the pride, the deceit, the jealousy. Each Christian is a different creation, but God works on us all, for our good, with His Son as the model." How these lines can take the sting out of the bad and sad things that happen to us!

This past year I have lost three loved ones and have suffered from a serious chronic disease. Has God forsaken me? Not really, although there have been times when I've groped for the right way. As the year has progressed, I've learned how much the hard knocks of life act as teaching tools.

Never before has the Lord given me so many new spiritual insights. Our walk is a closer one. I can identify with Him, at least to a small extent, on the Cross; and I couldn't before. Where it was once impossible to thank God for everything, as Paul recommends in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, I can now do just that.

My loved ones are with the Lord. I am filled with joy for them. I've lost a lot of weight, and I now lead a self-disciplined life and feel better about myself than ever before as the result of my physical affliction. God has made it bearable on a daily basis and that is enough for now.

Everything that has happened to me He has used as a teaching tool in my life. I'm watching Romans 8:28 come true in my life: "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Somehow impossible things become possible when young people let go and let God take over their lives.



### They Want to Serve Mankind

Two Lee College
Graduates Become Doctors

### By Lee College Public Relations Department

harlinda Beach Turner received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences School of Medicine on Saturday, June 5, 1976, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Turner holds membership in the American Medical Student's Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians. She received a categorical



Dr. Sharlinda Beach Turner posed with her father, Mr. Charles Beach. Both Mr. and Mrs. Beach are professors at Lee College.

Pediatrics Internship at Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital which began July 1.

Her most recent research was on Aplasia Cutis Congenita—congenital absence of skin on the right lower extremity in a mother and daughter. The research was presented on two occasions to the Department of Genetics of the University of Tennessee School of Medicine and the Cranio-facial Anomalies Conference at the University of Tennessee Child Development Center.

Dr. Turner brought distinction to the Lee College Science Department by becoming one of the first two graduating premed students to complete her course of study in the University of Tennessee School of Medicine.

She received her medical degree from Dr. Edward J. Boling, president of the University of Tennessee, along with 108 graduating seniors. The event marked the culmination of a three-year curriculum involving eighteen months in basic medical sciences and eighteen months in clinical sciences, during which time Dr. Turner trained at five Memphis hospitals.

During the three years of study Dr. Turner received honors in Embryology, Neuroanatomy, Psychopathology, Laboratory Medicine, Junior Medicine Clerkship, and Medical Genetics.

Mrs. Turner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beach of Cleveland, Tennessee, and the granddaughter of the Reverend and Mrs. J. L. Underwood, also of Cleveland. Mrs. Turner's moth-

er, Mrs. Lois Beach, is a chemistry teacher at Lee College and is acting chairman of the Department of Natural Science; her father is a professor of languages and serves as chairman of the Department of Languages at Lee.

At six weeks of age Sharlinda moved to Cleveland. Her entire schooling was in Bradley County. Upon completion of her studies at Mayfield Elementary School, she was selected by the faculty to receive the DAR award.

At Arnold Junior High School, Sharlinda won the National Merit Scholarship of one thousand dollars. She was also the recipient of Cleveland High School's DAR award.

At Cleveland High School Sharlinda served as president of the Beta Club, placed in the top ten in the regional math contest for three consecutive years, and was declared first-place winner in the school science fair. She was selected as Outstanding Teenager of America and Outstanding American High School Student and is listed in Who's Who Among High School Students. She graduated as salutatorian and was named "The Most Likely to Succeed."

Throughout her childhood and teenage years, Sharlinda was active in church work at North Cleveland Church of God and in the church choir.

Upon her completion of high school, Sharlinda enrolled in Lee College. When she finished at Lee, she was presented the F. J. Lee Award, which is given to the most outstanding graduating senior. She graduated from



Dr. DeWayne Knight at his graduation with his father, the Reverend Cecil B. Knight, who is First Assistant General Overseer of the Church of God

Lee summa cum laude and was selected as one of the three students to present an address on Honors Night. Also, she was chosen by the Lee faculty to be included in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

Sharlinda is the wife of Jerry D. Turner, who is employed by the U.S. Post Office. He is presently taking graduate courses at Memphis State University, and he plans to enter law school in the fall. Paying tribute to her husband, Mrs. Turner said, "I could not have made it without him." The Turners reside in Memphis and are members of the Oak Forest Church of God there.

sychiatrists have been given the mind; the clergymen, the spirit; and the physicians are too often left with only the body. But the body is frequently the expression of emotional, mental, and spiritual conditions, and the physician must be concerned with them all. It is this wholistic concern for the patient that has influenced my decision to continue my medical career in the area of Family Medicine," said Dr. De-Wayne Knight, who recently was graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis.

Dr. Knight, who is an alumnus of Lee College, received his medical degree June 5, 1976, from Dr. Edward J. Boling, president of the University of Tennessee, along with 108 graduating seniors. The event marked the culmination of a three-year curriculum involving eighteen months in basic medical sciences and eighteen months in clinical sciences. During which time Dr. Knight trained at five Memphis hospitals.

He also worked part-time as a clinical intern in pediatrics and surgery at two Memphis-area private hospitals. Eight months of his senior year were spent at the University of Tennessee Clinical Education Center in Chattanooga, where he concentrated on broad medical and surgical areas which, he said, will be important over the next three years of his training in Family Medicine.

During the three years of study Dr. Knight received recognition in Neuroanatomy, Introduction to Health Care Delivery, Pediatrics' Outpatient Department, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Cardiology. He has written two research papers entitled "Introduction and Critique of Memphis Area Family Practice Programs" and "Recognition and Prognostic Evaluation of the Premature Ventricular Contraction—A Summary of Current Literature."

Dr. Knight, who was awarded a service scholarship by Tennessee State Loan-Scholarship Association for future service in primary care medicine, plans to complete a three-year residency program in Family Medicine at Baroness Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga before beginning private practice.

"Thankfulness is all I feel now

—gratitude to family for support and prayerful guidance; to my wife, Jane, for comfort and loving companionship; and to God for purpose and sufficient grace. I am also indebted to Lee College and its excellent faculty which helped prepare me academically as well as emotionally and spiritually for the rigors of the past three years," observed Dr. Knight.

Dr. Knight did his undergraduate training at Lee College, where he majored in biological sciences. During his four years of premedical education he served as vice-president of Alpha Gamma Chi fraternity. He was charter member and cofounder of Lee College chapter of Rotaract So-

Dr. Knight received his first exposure to the health care field at Cleveland's Bradley Memorial Hospital, where he worked for two years as respiratory therapist. He was graduated from Lee College magna cum laude, receiving the Physical Science Departmental Award and the Hall of Fame Academic Award, and was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Cecil B. Knight of Cleveland, Tennessee, and is a brother of DeLance, VeDonna, and Victoria Knight. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Morris and Mrs. Maggie Knight. He presently resides in Chattanooga with his wife, Jane, daughter of the Revcrend and Mrs. Jim O. McClain of Cleveland, Tennessee, and with his daughter, Monica Michelle.



### THE MEANING

### BY ALAN CLIBURN

sat hunched in the eorner of the back seat as we drove home, while Mom and Dad raved on and on about what a "fabulous" evening it had been and how successful Uncle Wayne was, and stuff like that. It made me sick!

"Did you enjoy spending time with Craig?" Mom asked suddenly. "He seems like such a niee boy."

"Yeah, nice," I echoed, masking the sareasm.

Craig was about my age and totally messed up. He had been popping pills and smoking pot for as long as I could remember, and his folks didn't even know. He had offered me dope lots of times, but one look at him when he was high convinced me to stay off that junk.

We didn't see them very often, but it was kind of eonfusing having rich relatives like Unele Wayne and his family. They had reached the goal of financial security and position that most people strive for and yet they were still searching—Uncle Wayne, for more wealth; Aunt Heather, for additional possessions; and Cousin Craig, for ways to escape his empty though affluent existence. So what is the meaning of life anyway? I wondered.

The very next day I was sitting in my English elass, pretending to listen to a series of dull speeches, when Jeff Aseot's words broke into my thoughts.

"What if I told you how to get high without drugs?" he was saying. "What if I told you true happiness has nothing to do with material possessions?"

I was alert by then.

"What you really need is a consciousness breakthrough," Jeff continued, "dismissing the idea that the physical world can ever satisfy you, and experiencing your original identity with God." Then Jeff began ehanting something he ealled a "mantra," which sounded like a lot of gibberish to me, but which was admittedly fascinating to hear.

"The purpose of chanting is to get you through the various levels of consciousness," Jeff explained. "Obviously I can't reach the spiritual level here, but it really is fantastic and if you're interested in hearing more about this type of Hinduism called Hare Krishna, see me after class. I can tell you that—"

"Time's up, Jeff," the teacher interrupted, checking his stopwatch. "Good job. Okay, Sandra, let's

hear from you."

Sandy Shumaeher began her talk on the joys of stamp collecting, so my mind tuned her out and reviewed some of the things Jeff had said. It sounded like Hare Krishna was exactly what I was looking for.

Following Sandy's speech, Lee Colson walked to the front of the room. I didn't know Lee too well, but

he seemed like a really niee guy.

"This won't be a rerun or an instant replay or anything like that," Lee assured us with a grin, "but what if I told you how to get high without drugs and that true happiness has nothing to do with material possessions?"

There were a few sniekers because it was so similar to what leff had just said.

"I'm not talking about Hare Krishna or any other Eastern religion, though," Lee went on quickly. "What I am talking about is the Person of Jesus Christ."

He went on to tell how Jesus Christ, God's Son, had eome to earth and had lived a perfect life. He was erucified on a cross for the sins of mankind, and then rose again on the first Easter. It was news to me.

"Let me tell you what Jesus actually did for me," Lee continued. "By dying on that cross, He paid the penalty for all the wrong things I've ever done or ever will do. God demands perfection; and I don't know about you, but I'm far from perfect. If it weren't for Jesus Christ, I would stand guilty, condemned, before God on Judgment Day. Now I have eternal life and forgiveness. But it didn't happen automatically. I had to ask Jesus to come into my life and to grant me the free gift of heaven."

I was skeptical. It all seemed too easy. With Jeff's religion you had to go through the chanting and all that sort of thing, but with Christianity all you had to do was believe.

Strangely enough, Jeff seemed to disappear after

class. I gathered my books together, looked around, and he was gone. Lee was still there, so I shrugged and walked up to him.

"Nice talk," I said.

"Thanks a lot, Larry," he replied with a smile. "Did it make any sense to you? Explaining Christianity in five minutes is pretty rough, but I wanted to at least try."

"How does your religion differ from Jeff's?" I wanted to know. "The outcome—getting high without drugs and rejecting materialism—sounds pretty much alike to me."

"Well, those aren't really accurate outcomes," he admitted, "although it's true that Jesus offers a permanent spiritual 'high' to believers and the kind of eternal rewards which make our possessions here on earth pretty miserable by comparison. The real message of Christ is surrendering your will to Him and believing that He knows what's best for you. You can only do that if you believe He is God's Son and then receive Him as Savior. In Hare Krishna they believe in God, but not Jesus; and their God is seen in an entirely different way."

I frowned. "Like how?"

"Well, for one thing, they believe that God and the creations He made are the same."

"What does that mean?" I wanted to know.

"Okay, it means that people and animals and even things arc God; like you, me, that bush outside, your pct cat—everything. That's why the cow is sacred in India where Hinduism is the principal religion. A cow is God." "You're kidding!" I exclaimed.

"Nope," he assured me. "They also believe that body and matter are illusion. The chanting and other rituals which take you through the different levels of consciousness that Jeff mentioned are supposed to produce a transcendental ecstasy. Eventually it is possible—they believe—to go beyond good and evil, truth and falsehood, personal distinctions, and all that sort of thing, and enter true reality which is union with Krishna, or God. At the highest level of consciousness you become a nothing."

"A nothing?" I repeated.

"That's what they believe," Lee replied. "Of course that takes a while, and not everyone reaches that level. In Christianity we don't believe that God is synonymous with His creations. I know I'm not God, because I'm not perfect and He is. At the same time,

I know that God is living within me and that I will spend eternity with Him because I've trusted Jesus Christ to save me."

"How do you know that?" I asked.

"It's in the Bible," he explained. "'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The Bible makes it super clear that we cannot work our way to heaven or earn our salvation by chanting or being good or anything. All it takes is faith."

"Does being a Christian make you happy?" I questioned, still not sure of my feelings.

"I have my ups and downs like anybody else," Lec admitted, "but that's because I often rely on my own strength instead of His. I have to be honest, though. Accepting Christ doesn't mean that your problems just disappear, but it does mean that He will help you solve them. I'm not happy all the time, Larry, but I do have peace inside."

I didn't answer. It sounded good, but—

"Jesus claims to be the only way man can reach God," Lee continued. "That's a pretty dramatic claim, but I believe it. He changed my life and He's willing to do the same for anybody who asks. The relationship I have with Christ goes far beyond the emotional sensation or mental stimulation of chanting, saying words you don't even know the meaning of."

I frowned. A lot of what Lee said about Harc Krishna wasn't included in Jeff's talk, and he seemed to talk with such authority, too. "How do you know so much?" I wanted to know.

He grinned. "Guess I forgot to tell you that. You see, I once studied Hare Krishna. My whole family was involved in it until we heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. It just made so much more sense and was so logical that we started going to a church just a few blocks from here. One by one we asked Jesus to come into our hearts, and I can't begin to tell you the difference it's made." He frowned. "I should have said something about that when I gave my talk. Man, I hope none of the kids take up with Hare Krishna just because of what Jeff said!"

I didn't know about the other kids, but I was pretty sure about myself. Lee had tried them both, but he had found the inner peace and satisfaction he was looking for in Christianity. Maybe it wouldn't work for me, but the least I could do was check it out.

"Where did you say that church is?" I asked.



### BY W. L. (BILL) HOPPER

emember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Eeclesiastes 12:1).

Never was Solomon's wisdom more greatly exhibited than when he penned these words. Many are the blessings and privileges of youth. Instead of looking back over a wasted life, they ean look ahead and plan the kind of life that will be most profitable for them.

In one church that I pastored there was a man in his sixties, who had been backslidden for thirty years and had returned to the Lord. He had a marvelous experience, and felt the urge to preach. Many times he would say to me, "I know it's too late, but oh, if only I had answered the call in my youth."

One of the pressures of being old is knowing that there is so much to do and so little time in which to do it. Perhaps you have thought of planting a peean tree; but it takes six years for one to start bearing fruit, and who knows whether you will still be around in six years? You might feel that you would like to buy some land and hold it until its worth increases, but again, you just might not be around that long.

You ean think of so many things you would like to do, but time is running out for you. You remember about the rieh man in the Bible to whom God said, "Whose shall those things be?" (Luke 12:20). A man may work and plan for his retirement home; but then in a few years his heirs may sell it to the highest bidder. They seem to forget the love, blood, sweat, and tears that went into the building of it.

The time to plan ahead is "in the days of thy youth." If you plan to enter the ministry, enter it early. Prepare yourself in the best possible way, and give God a life, not just an old body. If your desire is in the field of musie, begin early. Don't wait

until your life is too far spent to enjoy the blessings of your work. If you desire to be a missionary and serve God in foreign lands, now is the time to prepare. Look ahead, not backward. Let God direct you, not remind you. Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth when you have the most to offer.

It has been said that the phrase "too late" is the saddest phrase in the English language. Doctors look at a patient, shake their heads, and say, "Too late. If I had only gotten here sooner. . . ." Firemen rush to a burning building only to shake their heads and mutter, "Too late to save it now. Just a few minutes earlier. . . ." After Lazarus died Martha expressed this sad feeling to Jesus: "If thou hadst been here . . ." (John 11:21).

But with Jesus it's never too late to heal the siek, raise the dead, or save a soul. With us, however, it is often too late to do the work we so greatly desire to do. "I know it's too late. If only I had answered the eall in my youth." These words still ring in my ears as I picture a man who has wasted most of his life and now wants to give a lifetime to the ministry of the gospel.

Somewhere I read this little illustration: A young man heard the Lord say, "Son, give Me thine heart."

"Oh, not now," he replied, "I'm too young. My life is before me. I want to have a good time. Later, when I am married and have a family, I will give You my heart."

A young businessman heard the eall from God, "Son, give Me thine heart."

"I'm very sorry," said the businessman, "but I am too busy with my work. Later, when I retire, and have more time I will obey."

An aged man heard the preacher say, "Brother, give God your heart."

"It's too late," the old man replied. "I have wasted my life, and now I ean't get through to Him." The youth, the businessman, and the aged listener were one and the same. Only the years had made the difference.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Offer God a life, not a worn-out body. Plan ahead; don't look baek. Hear Christ speak the words: "Well done," not "I'm sorry, it's too late."

### Fund Raising Perfected.

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By H.E. Benson, President

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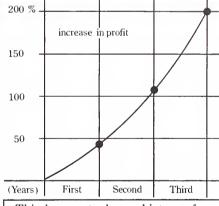
Your profits are unusually high. You'll find that your profits are quite substantial on whatever products you choose to sell. For instance, when you sell Fruit Cake, you can qualify for our Free Cake Plan, where your profit is \$4.25 per cake!

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We also have local fund raising advisors throughout the country who will give you free advice and assistance whenever you need it. You can also call us collect at the home office anytime, at (404) 725-5712 for more information.

> We like our customers to speak for themselves.

We're proud of the many positive comments we receive about our fund raising program. Like Mrs. John H. Archer of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Shadyside, Ohio. She says, "We like your service and the public likes your cakes."

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### Reclamation

God saw the best in everyone,
But the best was not enough.
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We could not
reach the mark, measure up
to heaven's doorsill, or add weight
when balances were wanting.
He saw the best in everyone,
And for them He gave the best—His Son.





GET SQUARED AWAY SPIRITUALLY

Gerald J. Johnson

Today's campus life has blown a lot of minds. There are merciless assaults that attack and sweep away the spiritually unprepared. The intellectual confrontation, social assimilation, and multiple temptation are heavy. They unceasingly tax your spiritual resources.

How can a Christian consciously, deliberately, and habitually cope with campus life?

campus life?

The first thing a student on campus should do is to get squared away spiritually or to be determined that he is going to live the Christian life on campus. This is a commitment, a fixed determination—something you do on purpose. It will assure you of power to meet the problems of campus life and to rise above them. This spiritual stance immediately elevates your mind, purifies your affections, and invigorates your will. You are capable of

coping with every problem.

Remember: your motive is to please Christ. This motivation determines the direction of your development. You do not have to be isolated. You can confidently confess that you are insulated. The path that pleases requires that you take the offensive and be spiritually aggressive. In so doing, your spiritual life will be undergirded and maintained.

To get squared away spiritually, you must get in the Word. You must have an enriching devotional life. Bible study, prayer, and sacred music will enrich and edify your spirit. Stay in the know. Find a stimulating campus fellowship. Spiritual dialogue, sharing, and witnessing keep the fire burning. Walk in the Spirit. Get involved in a worship-centered, training-centered, action-centered ministry.

## THINK POSITIVELY

Paul Duncan

Are you a winner or a loser? Do you think

### SMILE

## SHARE JESUS

# ENJOY PEOPLE, THINGS, AND ACTIVITIES

Jerald Redman

Trust . . . God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17).

A few years ago there was a popular song titled, "Enjoy Yourself, It's Later Than You Think." A worldly sentiment, right? But have you ever thought that maybe God wants you to enjoy yourself?

Why do you suppose God made so much beauty? You're right! He wants His people to enjoy themselves. Upon finishing creation, "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). It takes special people to enjoy all things. Christians are special people whose experience of joy can positively influence other lives.

influence other lives.

Enjoying people is a great experience, the basic needs of your friends at school are the same, sust like you they need to be loved, heard, and trusted; they need to find a sense of fulfillment. Yes, circumstances tend to make people less than enjoyable at times. However, developing an appreciation for the variety God places within each of us will enhance our experience of enjoying friendships with fellow students.

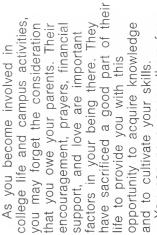
Enjoy things! Isn't it ironic in this "things and gadgets" generation that so many people are unhappy? Remember: "things" are gifts from God. Given to the Holy Spirit, you will be pleasantly surprised how "things" become instruments for God's glory. For instance, your car, your sports equipment, your clothes, and other possessions, are "things".

Campus activities are important. However, campus activities cannot be enjoyed without your personal myolvement. Christians may become involved in many activities. Activities create opportunities for you and God. Not only are your fatents important to your church, but they are needed in your school. The campus choir and band need Christian musicians. The journalism class needs Christian writers. The art class needs Christian artists. The sports program needs Christian athletes. The various cutbs need Christian leaders and members. The purpose of the Christian message can be summarized in one statement: God, through His Son, became involved in the activities of people.

Get involved with people, things, and activities. Enjoy yourself!

## REMEMBER YOUR PARENTS

Gary Tygart



You can never repay them for their love; they do not ask that. But you can show your appreciation by

systematically writing them. Share news with them. Let them know what's happening, the grades you are receiving, who your friends are, and the special activities in which you are involved. Tell them that you love and appreciate them and that you feel the strength of their prayers.

prayers.

You are a big part of their life, so keep in touch. Keep a picture of them in your room and pray daily for them. Remember: your parents are God's gift to you!



We have discovered in Jesus Christ the solution for the spiritual needs of others, and all through life God provides for us opportunities to share this good news.

THE

For those who have spiritual hunger, He is the Bread of life; for those who thirst, He is the Water of life; for the lost, He is the Way; and for those who are searching. He is the Truth. But He can be nothing to those who need Him unless someone who knows Him shares Him.

What an opportunity! You know Him, and you can share Him.

### **LOOK AHEAD**

Donald M. Walker

September ushers in autumn—the "beginning of the end," the winding down of the year. Luscious green lawns go dry and discolor. Fragrant flowers fade and go limp. Feathered friends begin their annual flight and migration. Mother Nature takes note and takes this last chapter of the year to begin a new book. From the withered and the waste she prepares to make an improved and better tomorrow. DO THE SAME!

waste she prepares to make an improved and better tomorrow. DO THE SAME!

Make this school year your best—academically, socially, and spiritually. Profit from the waste and possible errors of yesterday and pledge yeurself to make that which is "ahead" better than what is now "behind."

Shake off the laziness carelessness, and any other unhealthy symptoms and look ahead, confident that tomorrow will be bright because you are going to work at making it so.

Serve yourself a good dose of self-confidence and faith in God; then set out to make your "today" count so that your "tomorrow" will bring you much happiness and satisfaction.

Someone has said, "Yesterday is only a memory; tomorrow is a calculated risk." While the future may have uncertainties and may make us apprehensive at times, there is Scripture that tends to reduce the "risk factor": "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). "I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize" (Philippians 3:13, 14).

curve upward. Pearly white spors appear between the embouchure muscles. The whole facial expression changes. The eyes even take on a new characteristic. They become brighter and the whole face glows. There is less muscular distortion. Only three muscles are now being used instead of the usual six. Facial muscles relax, and suddenly there bursts forth a SMILE!

Enjoy people and be happy! This is the day that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it!

### BE THANKFUL

Homer Rhea

One teacher said that his students might be divided into four groups. The first group was made up of those who did not know and did not care to know. The second was made up of those who already knew. The third consisted of those who would like to know, but were not willing to study and learn. The fourth was composed of those who not only desired to know, but desired to know strongly enough to study until they had mastered their lessons.

To which of these groups do you belong? Only the fourth group is thankful for their opportunities to study and learn. Why not reevaluate your attitude and become a member of this group?



Campus Evangelism

Church of God - Youth and Christian Education Department

Compiled by Floyd D. Carey. Art by Dave Harbaugh

## STUDY HABITS

Peggy Scarborough

don't know does hurt you deeply." overused statement. The truth is, "What you "What you don't know won't hurt you" is an

parchments" (2 Timothy 4:13). Paul had already received the best training possible, but with thee, and the books, but especially the at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring Paul wrote to Timothy, "The cloke that I left must you. he knew he had to keep studying to present himself a total person before the Lord. So While in the Mamertine prison, the Apostle

sermons to be preached all over the Roman world, but he had to keep on reading. Bacon information and inspiration. Paul had written books and prepared "Reading makes a full man." Read for

people walk around a rose." This can happen well-formed beautiful sentence as some said, "I walk with admiration around a follow. J. Wallace Hamilton, a prolific writer tell in love with words at an early age. He knowledge concerning it will automatically Fall in love with a course of study;

their greatness may wear off on you. Study people. As you study them, some of

tomorrow what you can do today. day to live their entire life. Don't put off unti Great people have lived as if they had one minutes in a day, and they click off too fast Don't waste time. We have only 1,440

individuals. time in talking about "nothing" or about other yourself and others who would spend your Avoid time wasters. Learn to say no to

classroom lecture, every book, and all campus God's Word as a yardstick to measure every Be careful what you hear and read. Use

wants you to be a showpiece for His glory—a vessel of honor. So develop positive study The whole reason for study is that God

> (Proverbs 23:7); "Keep thy heart [mind] diligence; for out of it are the issues of The wise man in Proverbs said, "Formas". [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he with a

So guard your thought life! Think positively

(Proverbs 4:23).

in all your endeavors. inspiring triumphs. It will enhance your achievements. It will turn your obstacles will only turn your dreams into exciting relationships and result in greater achievements opportunities. It will turn your tragedies And what will positive thinking do for you? It

The secret power of positive thinkers is faith and this faith is the power of God working in

and through you.

righteousness. are in Christ. We know the authority of His can make you into a spiritual giant. And such name. We have His wisdom, His love, and His positive thinking should characterize all genuine Christians. After all, we know what and who we Positive thinking born of vibrant faith in God

dare to think positively and live triumphantly. In light of these faith-building realities, we can

## LEARN TO RELAX

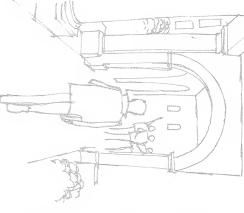
Robert P. Herrin

schoolwork; you feel inadequately prepared for an one time or another. You fall behind in your apprehension, dread, uneasiness, worry, or concern And one may have anxiety and not be aware of it. Certainly all students experience this emotion at Anxiety is characterized by feelings of Oftentimes inability to relax is caused by anxiety.

and you feel that you're letting Mom and Dad down discouragement and a total inability to relax. cannot function at your best. The result is your self-esteem to drop. When this happens, you Many other anxious feelings may arise, causing

exam; you feel rejected by some group on campus;

Philippians 4:6, 7. means to put Christ first in your life, and then peace, rest, and freedom will follow. Read careful [anxious] for nothing" (Philippians 4:6). This Learn to relax by reading God's Word. Read Matthew 6:25-34; Matthew 11:28. Paul said to "be





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### Suddenly-There is God !

### BY LON WOODRUM

moment and a mil-

lennium do not appear nearly so different in length to God as they do to us. A cynic said, "If the Lord is going to set the world aright, He seems to be taking His time." Also, a saintly prophet lamented, "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear," pointing out that the time between divine visitations may seem long to man.

Nonetheless, long periods between visitations could be to men's benefit, especially when they bring judgment. The Bible shows that after warnings and delays, the judgment of God often falls abruptly and dreadfully.

On the other hand, God sometimes acts suddenly and abruptly to bring joy, hope, or deliverance to His people. A case in point is found in the book of Isaiah. The prophet reveals that man had waited for ages for deliverance from his agonizing situation; but darkness covered the carth, "and gross darkness the people" (Isaiah 60:2). Injustice rode down the unfortunate; evil stood in high places. Man's culture became a symptom of illness; carth was dying. Then a strange thing happened—and of all places, in a sheep camp.

"Suddenly there stood before them an angel of the Lord, and the splendour of the Lord shone round them" (Luke 2:9; New English). An angel choir began a never-to-be-forgotten religious service! The angelic leader's brief message has come down through the ages: "Today in the city of David a deliverer has been born to you—the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10; New English).

Suddenly the great adventure had begun. After all the waiting and the wondering, God moved to save a world. Never would earth be quite the same again after the birth of that Baby in a tavern keeper's cattle-cave. Finally God had put His feet down in man's dust—and so quickly!

Grown to manhood, the Baby gave the world His message—and the world killed Him. He was not the first prophet to be put in a tomb, nor the last; but no other prophet would ever do to the tomb what He did! He opened it and let in the eternal light. Looking into an open grave, we can see that deathlessness was meant to be our destiny. But how quickly it all changed!

Soon after His breakout from the grave Jesus was launched skyward. Space swallowed Him up; then something else happened! "Two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them" (Acts 1:10; Amplified). Theirs was a brief message: this same Space-traveler was not going away forever; in time He would return to earth.

Before His takeoff Jcsus left a promise: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8). That pledge was kept in a manner beyond their highest imagining. A divine happening launched the young church into history. "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. . . . And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:2-4). Instantly the church was empowered for its incomparable

mission. It was an awesome, blazing moment in the story of man; and the fires of Pentecost were to burn till time's end.

A later event also affected the future of Christianity. An angry enemy was determined to devour the infant church. But this encmy met Jesus on the Damascus highway—and history swung on a new course. "Suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven" (Acts 9:3). And a voice sent Saul of Tarsus out to "turn the world upside down" for Christ. Once more, in a shining instant, God stepped into the affairs of the human race.

God is not through with acting to redeem His c r e a t i o n. One special move remains—perhaps the mighticst move of all. And, again, the abruptness of the act will be mind-staggering. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the (sound of the) last trumpet call. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable—free and immune from decay—and we shall be changed (transformed)" (1 Corinthians 15:52-54; Amplified).

Suddenly! Often this word flashes at us out of the prophetic pages. Suddenly judgment came upon the impenitent. Suddenly a Savior lay in a barn. Suddenly a grave stood openmouthed and a Man came forth, never to dic again. Suddenly this Man was lifted from earth like a homing rocket. Suddenly the hurricane of fire swept on the disciples at Pentecost.

And suddenly, too, Christ shall blaze forth out of the cosmic distances to gather His own to the Coronation!

Time may seem to stretch between divine visitations, while evil harasses mankind; but abruptly the Lord will sweep into the flow of history. Suddenly there will be a new thing, a new age, a new world.

Suddenly—there is God!

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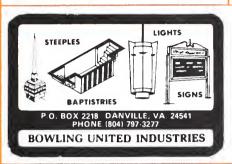
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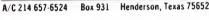
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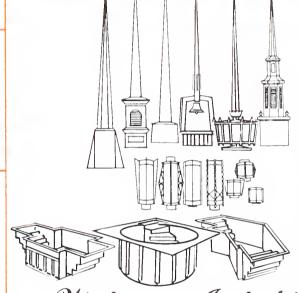
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### BY FLOYD D. CAREY

hrist promised that He would return to earth one day to "catch away" His people. This promise is precious! And, it most definitely includes young people. The events of our day—the signs of the times—indicate that His return will be soon. Christ instructs us, however, to "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13).

It is the will of Christ for His people, both young and old, to stay busy, to "occupy" until He returns. One vital aspect of the "occupying" process is to plan and promote programs and activities that will keep the church at work and alert to the responsibilities of the Great Commission. Young people are a part of the church, and therefore they are included in the "occupying" process.

This article contains a monthby-month listing of the major programs and activities that will be sponsored by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education in 1976-77. This information will help you, as a Church of God young person, to be a part of the church at work and to obey the instruction of Christ to stay "occupied" in anticipation of His soon return.

If you would like additional information about any of the programs and activities listed, plcasc talk with your pastor. He has received a *Pastor's Planner* that gives data about each one of the items listed. Also, a 1976-77 Programs and Activities filmstrip and manual have been prepared to assist local youth leaders in understanding and communicating the programs and activities to you.

Christ loves you! The Church of God has a place for you to stay "occupied" until Hc returns.

# YOUTH PLANNING GUIDE 776-77

### SEPTEMBER, 1976

Introduce Church Training Course 130, Sunday School Basics.

Read TRUTHWAY, Campus Evangelism insert, Lighted Pathway.

Show new filmstrip, "1976-77 Programs and Activities."

Show new filmstrip, "Making Disciples."

Introduce superintendent's cassette program.

### OCTOBER, 1976

Participate in National Youth Emphasis Sunday, "A Call to Freedom" (October 10).

Review Family Training Hour Resource Guide, Lighted Pathway.

Show new filmstrip, "Ways to Increase Family Training Hour Attendance."

### NOVEMBER, 1976

Peruse Campus Evangelism's new book, *On Campus*. Secure YWEA filmstrip "Training for Christian Service," which relates to the 1977 project, a Bible school in Seoul, Korea.

Review promotional material on new Youth and Christian Education LEADERSHIP magazine.

Secure training cassette album for district youth and Christian education directors.

Promote College Day: International Bible College.

### DECEMBER, 1976

Study 1977 Christian Education Achievement Guide and Evaluation program materials.

Plan YWEA promotion.

Order new "Dynamic Youth Leadership" album. Plan to attend Family Life Seminar in your area. Introduce AIM program.

### JANUARY, 1977

Give attention to Christian Education Achievement Guide and Evaluation program; evaluate 1976 program; project 1977 program.

Plan for Church Growth Campaign, "Growing . . .

in the Power of the Spirit."

Read TRUTHWAY, Campus Evangelism insert, Lighted Pathway.

Discuss plans for vacation Bible school.

Participate in Family Life Seminars.

### FEBRUARY, 1977

Observe Boy Scout Sunday (February 13).

Study Christian Education Placement Program brochure.

Plan for Church Growth Campaign.

Review or teach Church Training Course 130, Sunday School Basics.

Promote YWEA.

Study new Teen Talent program for the Bible division.

Participate in Family Life Seminars.

### MARCH, 1977

Sponsor Church Growth Campaign, "Growing . . . in the Power of the Spirit."

Review new Family Training Hour selectives list.

Read TRUTHWAY, Campus Evangelism insert, Lighted Pathway.

Promote youth camp counselor training cassette program.

Participate in Family Life Seminars.

### APRIL, 1977

Make plans to attend statewide seminar to introduce Church of God Youth Identity program (Saturday, September 10).

Promote College Day: Westcoast Bible College (April 1), Lec College (April 23), Northwest Bible College (April 29).

Observe YWEA Sunday, April 24 (a Bible school in Scoul, Korea).

Give attention to Easter Sunday Emphasis (April 10). Participate in Family Life Seminars.

Participate in Regional Youth Crusades.

### MAY, 1977

Participate in Regional Youth Crusades.

Emphasize graduation.

Read TRUTHWAY, Campus Evangclism insert, Lighted Pathway.

### JUNE, 1977

Observe vacation Bible school month, "Ten-four—God's Message Received and Understood."

Review Tecn Talent materials for the Bible division. Show new Family Training Hour filmstrip, "Planning the Weekly Program."

Give attention to youth camps and Youth Day at camp meetings.

Study AIM program; order new brochures.

### JULY, 1977

Observe Independence Day (July 4).

Check Christian Education Guidelines and Evaluation program progress.

Read promotional materials on the new Church of God Youth Identity program.

Promote youth camps and Youth Day at camp meetings.

Study AIM program; order new brochures.

### AUGUST, 1977

Observe Christian Education Week (plan year's program).

Recognize Sunday School Promotion Day; prepare for installation of workers.

Pray for and attend International Training Conference (San Juan, Puerto Rico).

Introduce 1978 Church Training Course, Effective Communication.

Emphasize first edition of Youth and Christian Education LEADERSHIP magazine (September).

Make plans for National Youth Emphasis, October 7-9, "Living by the Word."

### TIME AND PURPOSE

### BY RENEE STAUFFER

West Virginia 1976 Teen Talent Honorable Mention Short Stories

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

all came early that year, and with it came cunning painters who splashed the trees with vivid colors. On the hills the last wild flower dropped her head and lay euddled on the earth's bosom asleep, while the wind sang a lonesome lullaby.

Jan stood silently by the window, her reverie suddenly broken. She looked at the house. Newspapers were spread all over the floor; dust filled the corners; dirty dishes were still in the sink; beds were unmade; and the television was still playing. She walked over to the set, pushed a button, and watched the picture shrink to a tiny dot, then into nothingness.

She straightened up the living room, made the beds, and washed the dishes. Meanwhile, she had to rush outside three separate times; once, to settle an argument between Jeff and a neighbor's son; the next two times to scold Missy and Bobby who, it seemed, were determined to kill each other . . . or her.

In those moments Ian became ruthless. Often her anger blazed, and she would storm and shout at her children until they were reprimanded and her anger had passed. Ian knew it was wrong to punish them like this. Her reproofs should be given with love and fairness. Instead, anger often overwhelmed her, and she was unable to stop the flow of angry words. For a moment, Jan had a vision of herself: She was not a mother any longer, but some sort of referee, passing judgments and administering punishments all day long.

When peace and quiet were finally established, she fed them and wearily sent them back outdoors with a cookie and a warning to each.

A sense of helplessness flooded Jan. Where had it all gone? that early sense of pride in the tiny lives that had made her feel so worthwhile and complete? Certainly she loved her children, but there were days when she wondered. . . .

Jan and her husband Mark had dedicated each child to God, feeling as they did so that He would give them wisdom to cope with, and understand, their children.

Evening brought a cool quietness, and Jan's husband returned home, tired from work. It seemed the children always behaved better with their father than with her. Mark left most of the discipline up to her. As a result of that attitude, Jan had become the one they had to fear rather than to look up to. She was troubled when she saw what was happening. Correction was necessary for her children, but Jan hated playing the role of the disciplinarian.

After the dinner dishes were done Jan went to the front porch where her husband sat gazing out over the neighborhood. The children were inside engrossed in a western on television. She sat down by her husband, feeling weary and almost exhausted. Letting her neck rest on the back of the chair, she contemplated the coolness and calm of the autumn night. As the dark descended, a full moon rose and the stars winked solemnly in the sky.

So beautiful, she thought. The children should be here enjoying this peacefulness instead of inside listening to that violence on the TV. With a start she almost called out to them, but when Mark looked at her quizzically she only said, "I hate that television set. I wish we didn't even own one! The children stay glued to it. They know none of this beauty, this peace. . . ." She dropped off, feeling sharply the inadequacy of her words.

"Oh, Jan, what can you expect? They're only children. Don't worry about it. They're good kids," her husband finished, satisfied.

Good kids, Jan thought. Yes, they're good. If you only knew.
... Well, maybe he's right. Only children ... but let them explore, let them find their place in their own time.

Jan had tried to explain that she wanted more for herself and for her children. She wanted to give them something worthwhile, something that would last.

"Dear God," she prayed, pressing her fingers against her temples, "What is right? What is good for my children? I want the best for them. I want them to grow up good and happy and satisfied. I—I need your help. Help me, please. I'm alone and confused and afraid. . . ."

Iesus. He had had a mother.

Had she ever felt this way? It had been so long ago, and yet she had borne Him; had earried Him so close to her heart. Even then, she had known His destiny. Yet, there was something more. Mary

had known that God would give her strength to overcome any problems and wisdom to conquer any fears.

Perhaps, she thought, these qualities for my children must have a chance to root and develop. I must be the one to plant and cultivate the seed, and how it springs forth in the lives of my children will be a result of my own labor.

Here was the answer, and Jan relaxed. As she did so a peace flowed throughout her body, calming her nerves and giving her strength. With it came a feeling of completeness, of love, and she felt a great tenderness and love for her husband and children. For now she knew that her children were in good hands—not only her and her husband's hands, but in God's hands. The certaintv of His love would encompass and hold them carefully, and guide them in their future, whatever it might bring.







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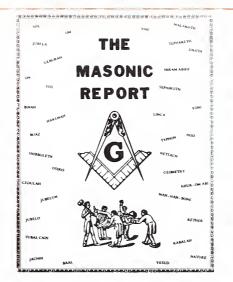
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#### VERNE COLLIER

900 NORTH 19TH ST. BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

oom 210 at Curie High School was the scene of a heated argument during Miss Sanderson's Civics class, and the loud voices penetrated to the hall outside. When the bell rang, signaling the end of that period, the students lingered to continue their discussion rather than rushing for the door, as was their usual practice.

On the way to their next class, Paul said to his friend, Jim, "You know, I'm glad we had a chance to discuss the graft and corruption in our city government. That really bugs mc, man, the way those big politicians downtown get away with all their dirty deals."

"Yeah," Jim agreed, "and like Larry pointed out, if it weren't for the news media none of their shady deals would ever be exposed."

In the lunchroom Marilou, Darlene, and Paula also continued the discussion that had begun in Civics. "I used to think Civics would be a dull course," Paula commented, "but today I found out it's very contemporary. You know, just two years ago I was wishing I were old enough to vote in the election. My folks were all excited about one of the candidates for Alderman and campaigned for him. Mom stuffed envelopes at his office; Dad went door to door with literature; and they even gave money towards his campaign expenses. They were very enthusiastic about seeing him get elected because they thought he was honest. However, after he got in office, it wasn't six months until he ended up in court over a crooked deal; now he's in prison. Boy, how can you judge character or know who to vote for when someone like that turns out bad?

Marilou agreed, "I know what you mean. My folks voted for him, too. Dad says he thinks such things start out on a small scale. He's always lecturing my little brothers: 'First, little kids steal candy from the store; next, they take transistor radios; and in a few years they start hijacking cars.'"

"Then again," Darlene offered, "don't you think there is a lot of corruption because most people do not know the Lord? They probably don't consider the little things as sins and just get carried away. It's just like shoplifting—lots of girls steal things, but it

# THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

#### BY DELORES ELAINE BIUS

docsn't bother them. Since we're born-again Christians, though, our consciences tell us such things are wrong."

"You may have a point there," Paula conceded. "My folks said they weren't going to go out on a limb for any political candidate again unless he professed to be saved."

After school Paul led the way to his car and said, "Jim, I hope you don't mind stopping off at the bookstore on the way home. I need to get a copy of *Farewell to Arms* to read for English Lit."

"No, that's okay—I'm in no particular rush to get home anyway."

Pulling his car into a parking place by the bookstore, Paul complained, "Man, I was hoping to find a parking meter with some time left on it, but you might know I wouldn't. Oh, well; I'll just kick the thing till it registers. The city won't miss my nickel, and I'd rather use it on something else!"

In the store Jim suggested, "Hey, why buy the book? Why not just get the *Cliff Notes* on the book and save yourself some money and time both. It's a lot quicker than reading that thick book. Matt was telling me he does that all the time."



"Man, you shouldn't listen to him. He smokes grass too, but you wouldn't do that. Besides, Mr. Harper's no dummy. He can tell whether you've really read the book or if you're conning him."

Sheepishly Jim mumbled, "Yeah, I guess you're right."

Later, when Paul let Jim off at his corner, they spotted Kevin Johnson washing his new sports car. "Hey, Kevin," Paul called, "quit wearing yourself out doing things the hard way. I'm working at Joe's Car Wash on Bridge Street on Saturdays. Come on over there tomorrow and I'll do an extra good job on it for vou.'

"No way, man; it takes all my bread just to make the payments and keep gas in this baby. Anyway,

Joe's prices are too high.'

"What do you mean? It will be on the house if I'm there. The cost of soap and water isn't all that much, and I'll donate the work. Joe won't notice anyway.

You're my buddy, man!"

Saturday Darlene was doing homework when Paula dropped over. "Why don't you come to Sheilah's Boutique with me. I saw a neat outfit in the window that I might get. You can help me pick out a scarf to go with it, too,'

"Wow, do you realize the prices there are sky high? Marilou says she only gets things there that are on sale. Yet she gets a 20-percent employee discount

since she works there."

"I know; and that's why I'm going today while she's working. They're having a sale now. I'll decide what I want and give her the money; then before she checks out tonight, she'll pretend she's buying it for herself. And I can afford it with 20 percent off."

"But Paula, that's dishonest," Darlene protested.

"Oh, come off it. You know very well their prices are way too high anyway. Besides, everyone does it. I heard my dad asking a friend who works at an auto store to get him some new tires that way."

"I'm sorry, but I don't want to be a party to anything like that. I just wouldn't feel right even being along. The Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 5:22, 'Neither be partaker of other men's sins.' And really, Paula, how can any of us condemn dishonesty in high places if our own actions aren't above reproach?"

"Well," Paula huffily replied, "I wouldn't exactly call a 20-percent discount on the same par with a public official embezzling thousands of dollars. Really, Darlene, sometimes you are just too much!"

Sunday morning, echoing the sentiments of the entire city rocked by the recent political scandals, Pastor Martin preached on the eighth commandment -"Thou shalt not steal." He pointed out how right is right and wrong is wrong, and there is no in-between; in other words, honesty is not a relative thing. He also explained that Christians are to be scrupulously honest in even the most minute details of their daily lives. He urged the congregation to examine their own lives with sanctified eyes and ferret out any sins of "trying to get something for nothing." Embezzling is just as much a sin when the amount is five cents as it is when the amount is five thousand dollars, he reminded them.

Following his sermon he asked each person to bow in silent prayer, search his heart, and confess his sins to God. The blinding searchlight of the Holy Spirit focused in on many hearts that morning. After church the teenagers gathered together, and Paula approached Darlene. "I think I owe you an apology, Darlene. I'm happy to report that you shook me up so much yesterday that I didn't go shopping after all, and I'm surely glad now."

Marilou added, "Yes, and I heard Jim and Paul saying they thought Pastor Martin should get in on our discussions in Civics Class. Guess they were con-

victed by his sermon, too."

"Funny how something seems a lot more dishonest when someone else is doing it," Paula commented.

Marilou added, "I think our pastor's sermon today applied to just about everybody in the congregation. The Bible is never out of date, is it?"

# HOW TO WIN S BY REALLY TRYING

#### BY JOHN HUDSON TINER

am a reasonably civilized human being. I can read and write and tie my shoelaces. But I am not a good speaker. When it comes time to talk to a stranger, I am reduced to grunting incoherently. Even answering a question in English class, with an audience sympathetic to my plight, leaves me all choked up and gurgling.

So when the attendance drive at our church began a couple of months ago, I decided to sit it out—that is, until last Sunday night when Mr. Phillips clamped his hand onto my shoulder. "We are depending upon everyone to work for our goal," he said. It was clear he meant me.

But what could I do? Disguise my voice and dial a telephone number at random? Write anonymous letters with an invitation to our church? Neither would work.

I'm not alone, I know. It is difficult for most Christians to walk up to a stranger and begin discussing Christ. In fact, it is almost impossible. That is the point. You can be much more sure of yourself if your prospective customer isn't a stranger—if he first becomes a friend. So winning friends is important.

One guy in our congregation has a neat scheme for winning friends. He is a real whiz with a wrench. He can nurse a balky lawn mower back from retirement for another summer of grass cutting. He can repair anything that should go, but doesn't. If anything breaks down in the neighborhood, he grabs his tool kit and comes to the rescue. He doesn't ask for payment. "How about coming with me to church next Sunday?" is all he asks.

Another person who has been successful in getting people to attend church is a girl who does quite a bit of baby-sitting. When she finds a family who does not attend church services, she offers to take the kids to Sunday school. Usually the parents are happy to agree. Then, it isn't long until the parents are regular attendants too.

Well, I'm not a genius with a wrench. I'd probably make enemies instead of friends if I tried to take a motor apart. Sometimes I baby-sit—but only under threat. In view of this, at first consideration it seemed hopeless to try to fulfill my commitment to the attendance drive.

But I didn't give up. In a few days I had developed my own scheme. Here it is: First, I chose a person who I think will make a good addition to the congregation, usually it's someone who used to attend but doesn't anymore, or someone without a regular church home. Once I have selected my target, I investigate him as a detective would. I discover his hobbies, his extra jobs, his friends.

One fellow whom I selected always bowled on Mondays after school. So I took up bowling at that time, too. A short while later one of his teammates didn't show up, and I filled in. We became friends.

If his hobby had been coin collecting, I would have made it my hobby too. If he had been interested in astronomy, I too would have become a stargazer.

Once I get on speaking terms with someone, it is easy to find an opening. For example, to a coin collector I'd say, "There is a coin show at the Mayfair Hotel Wednesday afternoon. How about going with me? We could go directly from there to church." Or, to an amateur astronomer: "I've always wanted to see the moons of Jupiter. How about coming with me to church Sunday night? Afterward, we could view the moons."

The key to witnessing is first to make friends. We must always remember that a person who makes a lot of friends does not acquire them by accident: he must work at it. Then his efforts will be rewarded. Not only will he have new interests in things such as coin collecting and astronomy, but he will also have new friends to share these interests with him. And, it is much easier to share Christ with a friend than with a stranger.

### YOUTH NEED A GOOD SAMARITAN

Half of the world's population is under twenty years of age; and because of the fast-paced, constantly changing times, much of the teenage populace is perplexed. Some youths are floundering as they grope for a few solid certainties upon which to stand. They see civil laws challenged, church standards changed, and doubts cast upon God's Word.

Nonetheless, countless thousands of teenagers throughout the world have learned to rise above circumstances about them. They have put their hand in the hand of Christ who lifts them up and gives them sure footing in an unsure society.

However, Christian youths do not have an easy road, and they need the help and encouragement of the Church. Dr. Warren Wiersbe, pastor of the famed Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, has compared today's teenager to the biblical character who fell among thieves and was later helped by the Good Samaritan.

Today's thieves, he said, contrive to get from the teenager all that they can get from him, regardless of the ill effects upon the youth; and the priest and the Levites of today look upon him as a nuisance to be avoided.

The innkeeper thinks of the adolescent as a customer to serve, and he fills his pockets with the money the teenager spends. The lawyer thinks of the youth as a problem to discuss, and he spends hours analyzing him.

Wiersbe suggests that on the other hand today's Good Samaritan looks upon the teenager as a person to love, understand, and help. Just as the biblical Good Samaritan ignored the wide social chasm between himself and the injured Jew, today's Good Samaritan disregards the gap between himself and the adolescent and lovingly lifts him and leads him to firm ground.

Thank God for Christian adults and teenagers who will not shun nor fear today's teenagers who have either lost their way or have never found it. Instead, they love them and prayerfully guide them to a saving and keeping knowledge of Christ.

Many of today's teenagers have fallen among thieves and have been left by the wayside wounded and forsaken. Let us lift them up and lovingly and tenderly bring them to Christ who will bind their wounds and forgive their sins. MIN

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# Pathuau GUIDING YOUTH

October, 1976

Volume 47, No. 10

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#### MEET JASON. THE CAT

#### BY EVELYN HARRISON HINSON



ason," I called as I stumbled along the path carpeted with fallen autumn leaves. "Kitty, kitty, kitty! He's got to be here," I mumbled to myself, fighting back the tears and thinking of how he had come to us and what he had meant to us.

We were living on a divinity school campus when, one Satur-

day morning, a young minister and his family from Vermont knocked on our door and asked if we would like a kitten. The minister had graduated a year or so before, and had returned to visit and to find good homes for his litter of kittens. They were part Persian and part everything. While we wanted no pets because we knew that after graduation we would be moving, we did

have a friend whose cat had disappeared and who wanted a cat; so we both agreed that we would take one.

The young couple left a little male kitten and returned shortly with a can of cat food which they felt was the best their kitten could be fed. They also wanted to make sure that they had found a nice home for their kitten. I often wonder why they stopped at our apartment and if the "one way" sticker on our front door had anything to do with it.

From the time the kitten came into our apartment, he was at home. He never cried like many animals do when they are in a strange place. He began to play, and soon tiring, fell asleep under our couch. I thought he was precious, with his brown tabby fur and little pink nose.

I called our friend, Linda, and told her to come over that evening because we had a surprise for her. But, when she arrived, my husband and I got the surprise! She didn't want him! "He's ugly," she said. Of course, he had already won a place in our hearts, so we became his new masters.

We settled on the name "Jason" for him. He was always playful, and knew he was "top cat" around our house. When we moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, he became the protector of our yard. Once I saw him chase a dog about five times his size from our yard, and on several occasions I had to rescue dogs on our back







#### MEET JASON, THE CAT

(Continued from page 3)

porch who had dared to trespass on our premises and had become cornered by Jason. He was an excellent hunter as well. On one occasion my husband rescued a squirrel from Jason, and after moving to Pennsylvania, I rescued a rabbit from him. Once he proudly brought a present to me and placed it at my feet—a big, fat field mouse! I'm sure he could never understand my reaction to that!

He won the hearts of the most avid cat haters with his great personality. Once we had friends visit us from Florida, and the first thing the young man said to me was, "I hear you have a cat. Just keep him away from me. I can't stand cats!" In about fifteen minutes the man was sitting in the middle of the living room floor playing with Jason. I said, "I thought you hated cats." To which he replied, "This cat's different. He's a cool cat."

While we lived in Springfield, Jason was evidently poisoned, and he almost died. The veterinarian didn't want to treat him because he felt there was no hope. Jason's kidneys and liver had already failed, and he had dchydrated; but we had faith. The vet gave him intravenous fluids and asked us to bring him back the next day if he were still alive. My husband brought the cat home. laid hands on him, and prayed for God to heal him for His glory. When we took Jason back the next day, he was so much improved the vet said, "Well, with your prayers and my medicine, he might just make it." And make it he did! Soon, he was as good as ever.

When we went on vacations, usually to my parents' home in Alabama, we would drive down to Virginia and leave Jason with my mother-in-law. She loved him as much as we did, but on our last vacation in May of 1975, she too had gotten a cat—a black, male, Himalayan Persian. Needless to say, the two didn't get along very well. We still can't understand why, but the day we were to arrive back in Virginia, Iason ran out the door and never returned. Our niece and nephew called and looked for him, but to no avail. My mother-in-law checked with the neighbors and with people who lived miles away, but no one had seen Jason.

Somehow I believed he would return. My heart ached as we drove back to Pennsylvania without him, and I wondered, Did he leave because the other cat was there and they didn't get along? Was he jealous? Did he think we had gone off and left him because we didn't love him? Was it a combination of all these things? Couldn't he remember how we prayed for him when he was so sick? Had he forgotten the good food that was always available for him, and the good times he had in his masters' house?

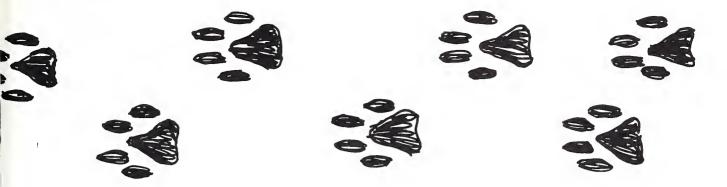
After checking the time it had taken other cats and dogs to return to their homes, I figured it would take around four months for Jason to return to Pennsylvania if he were trying to find us again. I continually looked for Jason.

On September 4, when I returned from choir practice at church, my husband said there had been a cat around the house that evening. I asked what it looked like, but he couldn't be sure since it was so dark. As soon as he saw the cat at the window he went out, but when he got outside, the cat ran. However, he could tell that the cat was large.

I became very apprehensive, but didn't allow my hopes to get too high. It could simply be a stray cat; but on the other hand, we had never seen a stray cat or dog in our neighborhood.

On September 10, as we were pulling into our street from prayer meeting, our car headlights picked up a big cat leaving our yard and running across the street into the woods. He stopped just a second in the road, long enough for me to see that he looked just like Jason. On another occasion we spotted the same cat under the church bus which was parked beside the parsonage. I began to put food and water out for the cat, but he usually came only at night to eat.

Once, when I opened the door to check the mail, the cat was asleep on the mat just outside the door, but as soon as I stepped out, he ran. A few days afterward, as I was leaving I saw the cat watching our house from across the street. I stopped the car, and this time I got fairly close to him before he turned and ran. There was no doubt in my mind that this was Jason. It seemed there was a longing in his heart to come back and be a part of our



household again, but it was as though something was holding him back, pulling him into the wilderness.

As I was walking along the path, pondering all these things, the Spirit of God seemed to hover over me and say, "This is the way it is with My runaways. The Holy Spirit seeks them and woos them, trying to bring them back into the Master's house."

According to the vet, Jason would be approximately sixteen years old—in human years. It seems that it is around this age when Christian teens become discouraged and disappointed, and often they will disclaim any connection with Christ.

Just as it is difficult to understand why Jason left his masters' house, it is difficult to understand why young people who have been raised in the Master's house and who have access to the banquet table of the Master will leave and go into the wilderness of this world. These are young people upon whom God has laid His hand; young people whom God has called into the ministry and in whose lives the gifts of the Spirit have been in operation; young people in whose bodies miracles of healing have taken place; and, young people whom God and the church dearly love.

Perhaps circumstances combined to make them want to leave. Perhaps something happened in the church and they became discouraged. Perhaps the pastor they admired and loved

moved away, and they felt rejected and unloved. Perhaps jealousy creeped in whenever another teenager was used of God. Whatever the reason, there is a real danger in "playing church," and in backsliding. A great personality and quick wit may help a teenager to make his parents and pastor think that he still knows God: however, we should remember that we do not fool God, and that He deems us unfit for His service when we turn our backs on Him. Jesus said, in Luke 9:62, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Just as our beloved house cat became so wild that he could not become a part of our household again, so does the backslider often become so enmeshed in this world that even though the longing is still there to become a part of God's household, the will of the flesh to be saved is weak. God diligently seeks those who have left the fold, but so often they run from Him, and run, and run, and run,

It is so important to stay in the Master's house, where there is security, and to use God-given talents humbly for His glory. It is wonderful to hear a young person tell how God saved him from drugs and a life of degradation, but how much more wonderful it is to hear a young person who has been true to God since he was a child tell how God has helped him to remember his Creator in the days of his youth (see Ecclesiastes 12:1).

There is no secret formula to rid oneself of discouragement, loneliness, rejection, and jealousy. But the Scriptures do give us a simple prescription we all can fill. Sometimes it's so simple we overlook it in trying to find a cure for our ills.

First, Ephesians 6:11-18 tells us to keep ourselves ready to stand against the enemy and to do battle, when he tries to make us "run away." In Ephesians 6: 13 we are told to "take . . . the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Second, we are to be filled with the Holy Ghost. In Galatians 5: 16 Paul admonishes, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Third, Galatians 6:1, 2 exhorts us to lift up one another: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

It is imperative—absolutely necessary—to remain in the Master's house, for only there do we have security. Only there is God bound to hear us when we pray. And only from there will those who have their robes washed and clean be taken to the eternal Master's house when Christ returns. We are safe only in the Master's house.



#### BY LANCE COLKMIRE

Florida 1976 TEEN TALENT Honorable Mention ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

remember it so well. The year was 1969. During those twelve months Neil Armstrong took his "giant leap for mankind," Richard Nixon served his first year as our president, and I, Lance Colkmire, my tenth year of life on earth.

Yet, Neil Armstrong and Richard Nixon didn't have any of the problems I had! Neither of those two stood less than five feet tall, while weighing nearly 140 pounds! And I was almost certain that they had had at one time a girl friend who liked them, too.

Why was I such a backward person? Instead of being able to tell something neat when a crowd gathered at school, it was impossible for me to even think about talking in front of the class without feeling sick. Why couldn't I be more like my other friends?

It seemed the only people I felt comfortable with were young children. So what! Despite my acceptance of Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, almost everything I did seemed to turn out wrong.

"Why would God allow someone who was His child to lead such a nonproductive life?" I questioned. "Wasn't God supposed to bless persons who tried to live for Him? What about me?"

As I sat in my seat of self-pity, I began to think of how God had always blessed the old patriarchs of the Bible—and Joseph came to mind.

Now old Joseph didn't exactly have the best of everything when he was young, either. He seemed to have as many troubles as I had, if not more.

As you'll probably recall, Joseph's brothers didn't exactly overflow with affection for him. In fact, they hated him. They even went so far as to toss him into a pit and leave him there to whatever fate might befall him.

What had Joseph done to deserve such a life? Was it his fault that he happened to gain his father's blessing (as well as a coat of many colors) because he was the last born? Besides, he was living for the Lord!

But to continue the story: Joseph was sold into bondage, lies were told about him, and a prison became his temporary home! Maybe at this time Joseph thought that all was lost—that he was at life's lowest possible point.

God's hand had been on the young man's life all along, but now things were beginning to change. After many years and many miracles, Joseph became one

of the greatest men in Egypt.

Think about that for a moment. If Joseph had not had such adversity as a young man, he might not have developed a strong character or might not have been able to handle his lofty position so easily. And if he hadn't been thrown into that pit, it might never have been possible for him to work his way up from slavery as he did. Therefore, many hearts (including those of his brothers), might never have been touched for the Lord.

Hey, I thought, could that apply to me?

The year is now 1976. This year Muhammad Ali is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world; Gerald Ford will attempt to regain his presidential office; and Lance Colkmire is eighteen years old.

Yet, Ali and Gerald Ford aren't as fortunate as I am. Neither of the two can stand tall in church on Sunday, as they see kids' lives changed—kids whom they have invited to church. Also, I don't believe that they possess the inner peace, joy, and true satisfaction which I have that only comes from God.

It seems so clear to me now why my early school years were the way they were. If it had not been for the type of childhood which I experienced, my ability to communicate with young kids might never have developed. But due to those young years, I now have a burden and a work to do for this age-group, and I am a better Christian for it. Praise the Lord!

Remember Paul. He was locked up because of his work for God. Yet, if he hadn't been in jail, a jailer might never have been saved. Paul realized this when he said:

In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with



n important rule to remember in dating is that a boy should call the girl the day after the date. This crazy-sounding tip is simply a matter of etiquette. If you had fun on the date, then this will be no great chorc—you'll probably want to call her anyway. But

matter of etiquette. If you had fun on the date, then this will be no great chorc—you'll probably want to call her anyway. But let's suppose the girl was just not your type—was completely out of it. Call her just the same. Why? Because, dull or not, she is still a person with feelings. But don't think only of the girl. Think of yourself, too. You never know when you may need her as a friend. She may have a cute cousin or be a whiz in algebra. If she thinks of you as a nice guy it certainly can't do any harm.

You might be thinking that if you call her up, she could get the idea you're interested in her! That's up to you. Actually, calling a girl gets you off the hook instead of putting you on. If you don't call, the girl is going to keep wondering what you thought of her as a date. If time passes and you still haven't called, it will create an uncomfortable feeling between the two of you. This can be very unpleasant, especially if you see each other at school, church, or wherever.

When you call, thank her for being so much fun, even if she wasn't the original personality kid. If you did enjoy her company, then you can keep the conversation in a date vein. If not, you can steer away and end up talking about your hobbies, sports, or homework. It doesn't matter, because you've shown her the courtesy of calling and saying thank you.

Recently a friend of mine went out with a girl and they had a great time together. He liked her and she seemed to like him. However, he didn't call her for a long time—several weeks. The girl didn't know what to think. My

### PATING TIPS FOR BOYS

#### BY ALAN CLIBURN

friend wasn't mad at her. He was just ticd up with other things. But how could she know that? For all she knew, she had been a miserable date—an idea which made her very sensitive and self-conscious. The next time they did talk, the relationship was strained: she didn't know how to act, and he didn't like the different way that she was behaving. A five-minute telephone call the day after the date could have prevented this.

There are exceptions to every rule, and there are times when it isn't necessary to call. One such time would be when you have a date with the girl the very next day. Another would be if you have a chance to see her personally the next day, accidentally or on purpose. For example, if you have a date Friday night and run into the girl at the market Saturday morning, or if the date was Saturday night and you see the girl Sunday at church, it would be silly to go home and call just because you're supposed to.

Usually a boy does not see his date the very next day, and that is why it is advisable to call. Some girls automatically expect the telephone to ring within twenty-four hours after a date; other girls don't give it a thought. But just to play it safe—and protect your standing in the feminine league—call her anyway.

The second rule to remember in dating is to always tell the girl where you're going on a datc. As with the first rule, this is particularly important on a first date. There are many reasons why a girl should know the plans for an evening; the first and most obvious reason is that of dress. It is not enough to say, "We ar school clothes," even if you think the event requires nothing fancier. Appearance is more important to a girl, and it is usually better to tell her exactly where you will be going so that she can dress appropriately.

A second reason for this rule is the girl's parents. Even if they know you, they'll feel much more relaxed about the date if they know your destination, plus time for return. And if you think parents don't influence their daughter's date life, you're living in fantasyland!

Some boys I know have this philosophy regarding dates: "I'm paying for it, so we'll go where I want to go when I decide to go." Even if you don't say this out loud, it's definitely suicide for young daters to practice this. The most important thing the boy should consider is this: "Is my date having a good time?" If you

don't tell her where you're going, she may spend a miserable evening with you, which will or should keep you from enjoying yourself.

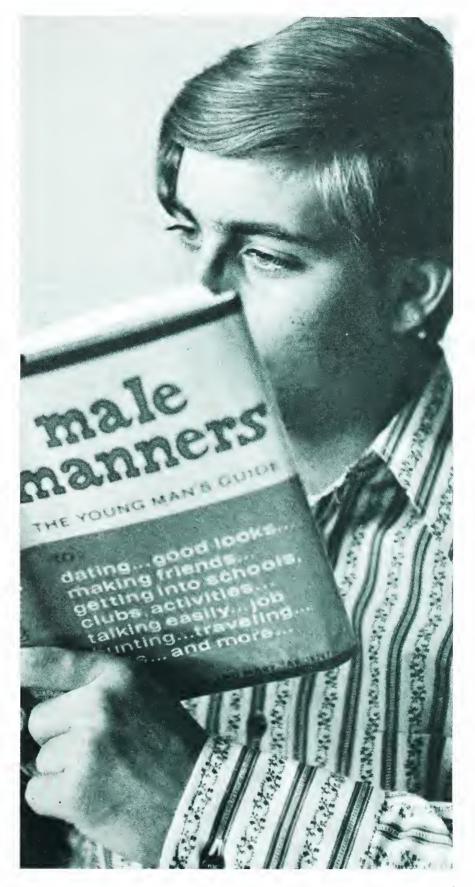
It may sound like you should call a girl and say, "Let's go out Saturday night. What would you like to do?" This is all right if you date the same person frequently, but not for a first date. Why not? Well, in the first place, you make it sound like you didn't have anything else to do, so you just picked up the phone and called the girl—in other words, you didn't make any preparation.

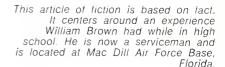
What should you do? Simply ask her out to something specific; for instance: "Hello, Carol? This is Brian. There's a great concert at the Civic Auditorium Saturday night. Would you like to go?" This makes it sound like you immediately thought of her when you considered attending the concert. Of course the first date doesn't have to be anything fancy like a concert. Just be sure it's something you think you both would enjoy.

There may be a few exceptions to this rule, the most important of which has already been mentioned: If you've dated the girl several times, you may not know exactly where you'll go. But even in this case, you should have a general idea, such as a sporting activity (spectator or participation), a party, a get-together, etc. Don't expect a girl to suddenly be willing to go to a party if she's dressed for bowling or miniature golf.

The only other exception which comes to mind now is a surprise party or some other special event. Even in this case, you should give her some idea so she'll be dressed appropriately. Her mother can be a great help in these cases. After all, you want to surprise her, not embarrass her!

Happy dating!







# FROM CATERPILLAR TO BUTTERFLY

#### BY WILLIAM N. BROWN

"Hey, what's happening?" someone yelled. I turned to see Jeremy come dashing down the hallway with an armload of books. At first glance, one would think he was a bookworm, since he has a habit of carrying an armload of books. But his eyes—bright, exciting eyes—bespoke of something different in his life. Chubby or not, he was the county weight lifting champ, and he was pretty fair at track. He had physical strength, but the real difference in his life was his spiritual strength. He knew Jesus as Savior and let everyone else know it.

"What's happening yourself?" I said laughing. "You look as if you swallowed some jumping beans."

"Well, guess what happened!"

I shrugged my shoulders. "I dunno. What?"

"You know David, the star runner on the track team?"

"Who doesn't? Lucifer's son himself!"

"Well, last night at the church revival he accepted Christ as his Savior."

"Hah! That'll be the day," I replied without enthusiasm. "I can see him now—reading his Bible and going to church on Sundays instead of drinking and partying on weekends."

"Hey, man, cool it. I thought you'd be glad he got

saved," Jeremy said.

"Man, I would be, if he really is saved," I replied defensively. "But it seems you forget things quite easily. Like just last week—he was making fun of us during our lunch-hour prayer and Bible study. 'You guys are too churchy,' he said. 'You pray to Someone you've never seen or heard. You can have that religion bit.'"

"But that just shows how badly he really needs Christ," Jeremy answered patiently. "Christ can save David as easily as He can save anyone else."

"I dunno. I can't imagine David as a Christian. Anyone but—"

"Anyone but David? Is that it? Boy! You better be glad that Jesus didn't decide to save everyone but you. If you'll remember, you had to make quite a few changes when you accepted Christ!"

"Well, I guess you're right. I'll see you later," I mumbled. "I gotta go to class." I avoided Jeremy's

disappointed eyes as I walked away.

As I sat in trigonometry class, anger welled up within me. Imagine, Jeremy preaching to me! I ought to know what Dave's really like. I see him enough. I'll just see for myself how much of a Christian he really is.

After class I went in search of Dave. I found him sitting with Barry and Chuck, the school "roughnecks."

"Man, what I wouldn't do to go out with that girl," he was saying. "By the way, did you hear the joke about the farmer's—"

"Hey, Dave," I interrupted. "What's up?"

Dave looked up and blushed. "Oh, nothing much. How's school?"

I ignored the question. "I heard you got saved last night. Praise the Lord!" Somehow, my praise sounded phony but I ignored the feeling.

"Yeah, well . . ." he fidgeted nervously. "I, uh, let's go get some books from my locker." He picked up his books and ignored the jeering as he walked away.

"Hey, Dave," Chuck yelled. "Gonna be a preacher creature? Ha! Ha!"

"So you're a Christian now, eh?" I slyly asked. "You sure were setting a good example for the Lord." Before he could answer, I continued, "By the way, you didn't finish your joke."

David reddened. "Well, it wasn't very funny anyway. Say, Bill, I was wanting to ask you something."

"Yeah, what?"

"Would you pray for me? What I mean is, I'm not the Christian you are, and I could use some help."

I was taken aback, but I recovered quickly. "Sure, I'll pray for you." I smugly watched him shuffle away.

Later, I sat in my biology class, thinking about how for once David had been at a loss for words instead of the other way around. I bet he-

"Bill!" Out of the clear blue sky, it seemed, I heard my name. "Bill," Mr. Avery repeated, "I asked you a question."

"Yes, sir?" I stammered.

"I'll repeat it again," he sighed, peering through his little wire-rimmed glasses. "Of the insects we've studied, which would you say is the most unattractive in appearance?"

"Well, uh, the caterpillar. Yes, the caterpillar, be-

cause he's all fat and ugly and—"

"Yes, these things are true, but isn't it also true that one of nature's prettiest creatures, the butterfly, comes from the caterpillar?"

"Yes, sir," I answered, "But that still doesn't change

the fact that the caterpillar is ugly."

"This is true," he replied. Walking to the blackboard, he scratched the top of his head. Hair might have been there thirty years ago, but the spot was quite smooth now. Then he rested his chin thoughtfully on his hand.

"Oh, no," someone in back whispered; "another lecture on philosophy or something!" Laughter ensued.

"You know," Mr. Avery said, ignoring the comment, "A lot of people are like the caterpillar—not very appealing on the outside, not much to look at, really. But they trudge along, eating and growing fat, thinking only of themselves. Finally, the things of the world build up around them—problems and the like—and they build a shell, or cocoon, between them and other people." He paused, then looked directly at me.

"But changes go on inside this cocoon. A transformation that we cannot even begin to understand takes place, and what emerges from the cocoon is not the ugly caterpillar, but a beautiful work of God, the butterfly. People are like that too. Some just take more time. . . ."

I listened intently and found myself thinking about David. Christ could make that transformation in his life, too. He could be freed by the Holy Spirit from his old life, and, like the caterpillar, become a whole new creature. But what about me? I—

My rambling thoughts were rudely interrupted by the bell.

"Class dismissed," Mr. Avery shouted. "Get out! I want to go home."

I started to leave, but Mr. Avery stopped me. "Well, William, between your daydreams I hope you learned something today."

"Yes, sir," I replied. "More than you know." I paused uncomfortably a minute, then said; "You know, you should have mentioned the praying mantis, too. It looks pious and gentle, as if it is in constant prayer, yet it is so cruel that it kills its own mate

(Continued on page 16)



BY JOHN HUDSON TINER

ave you ever studied a lesson at school that made it seem that science and the Bible disagree with each other? One of the pitfalls between science and the Bible is the fact that the Bible was written before the beginning of science. When the Bible talks about science, the words are not scientific words. Instead, the Bible uses common, everyday language.

As an example, a scientist would say that rain is caused by condensation of moisture from the atmosphere. Gravity causes the liquid drops in the atmosphere to fall to the earth.

The Bible, on the other hand, describes rain in this way: "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again" (Ecclesiastes 1:7).

Now the Bible description is good science; this is exactly how the water cycle works. No matter how the language is changed to put the statement in scientific terms, the Bible account is one of the most brief, concise, and accurate descriptions of the water cycle. No scientist could improve upon it in as few words.

The Bible was not written to be a science textbook. It was written to tell the story of Christ and to guide us to eternal salvation.

But the Bible is accurate when it does talk about scientific matters. For instance, the Bible says that the earth hangs upon nothing (Job 26:7)—a statement that flatly contradicted other views held at one time. Some of the more ignorant people of the past imagined that the earth was carried on the back of a giant turtle. The very well-educated Greeks of ancient times believed that the earth was suspended from clear crystal spheres.

To us the idea that the earth is hanging upon nothing doesn't seem strange at all. Today this idea completely agrees with science. But for almost three thousand years science contradicted the Bible.

In 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 as well as in 1 Timothy, the Apostle Paul warns that the first thing a person should strive for is knowledge of God's Word. Paul said that we should avoid "profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" (1 Timothy 6:20). What do you suppose this means? Where should you put your faith?

Prayer: Lord God, guide me as I study the Bible so I will understand Your Word. Make me strong in faith so that I will always have my full trust in You.



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By H.E. Benson, President

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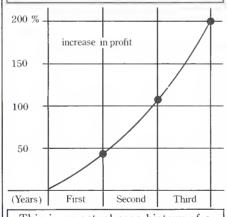
You'll find that your profits are quite substantial on whatever products you choose to sell. For instance, when you sell Fruit Cake, you can qualify for our Free Cake Plan, where your profit is \$4.25 per cake!

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# Family Training

#### BY FLOYD D. CAREY

#### POSITIVE PLANNING

The Family Training Hour program in the Church of God is experiencing phenomenal growth. One contributing factor to this growth has been the element of positive planning by local churches. For the past three years a Family Training Hour, twelvemonth suggested curriculum has been printed in the *Lighted Pathway*. The Planning Guides—Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3—contained suggested curriculum for each age group of the Family Training Hour.

This year, we are changing the name from "Planning Guide" to "Resource Guide." The reason for this is that Phase 1. Phase 2. and Phase 3 of the Planning Guides can be used year after year. You will observe that a curriculum is not listed for children in the nursery, for preprimaries, for primaries, and for juniors in the Resource Guide. Graded curriculum is provided for these divisions and the material is based on a two- or three-year cycle. If you would like to receive information on these age groups, you may order a Planning Guide from the General Department of Youth and Christian Education, Keith at 25th, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311.

Positive planning in the Family Training Hour provides a sense of direction, purpose, and security. All of these qualities play a very important role in the lives of family members. The Resource Guide lists programs and books that will assist you in outlining a balanced Family Training Hour program for the entire year. Keep in mind that there are many other available books and helps that you can use in your local Family Training Hour program. In outlining your program for the year, it is absolutely necessary that you consider local needs in projecting the curriculum for each age level. Local needs and interests can be ascertained by interviews, surveys, and a sharing-time with workers. Insight and information gained will assist the local church in preparing a balanced program for the year.

The Family Training Hour program is designed to help shape faith for today through involvement. The materials used by the local Family Training Hour—and the programs projected—are key factors in achieving this objective. This year's Family Training Hour Resource Guide will assist local leaders in accepting the Family Training Hour challenge with faith and positive planning.

Young Teens	
*A Place Called Church (selective on the church)	\$ .49
*Getting Next to God (selective on devotional life)	\$ .49
*You Are God's Poetry (selective on personality development)	\$ .49
*Lucifer on the Loose (selective on Satan and the	
occult) *Not My Parents	\$ .49
(selective on parent-teen and family relationships)	\$ .49
*Use It or Lose It (selective on stewardship)	\$ .49
*Is Heaven a Real Place? (selective on evangelism)	\$ .49
*Hello to the New Me (selective on the impact of a personal relationship with Christ)	\$ .49
*You're One of a Kind (selective on facing questions about life and relationships)	\$ .49
*Sponsor's Helps	\$ .25

# Hour RESOURCE GUIDE

A SUPPLEMENT TO PLANNING GUIDES-PHASES 1, 2, AND 3

High School Teens		Young Adults		Adults	
High School Teens  Hallelujah Anyway, Tim! Peggy Humphrey Scarborough (a book based on Second Timothy—stresses a self-disciplined life)  *Evolution—Fact or Fiction (selective on evolution)  *Good-bye, St. Christopher (selective on catholicism)  *Out of Your Family Tree (selective on teen-parent relations)  Of Course You Can! Hoyt Stone (a book on guidance in choosing a life's work)  *Give Me Liberty (selective on Christian conduct)  *Live With Yourself and Like It (selective on building a wholesome self-image)  *Move Out (selective on sharing the message of salvation)	\$2.50 \$ .49 \$ .49 \$ 1.75 \$ .49 \$ .49	The Christian Family Dr. Laud O. Vaught (emphasizes the attitudes required to put the family together and to keep it in harmony with the Word of God)  Reaching for the Sky Thomas Benjamin Pitman, III (explains the needs of young adults in the church and society)  The In-Crowd Cecil R. Guiles (gives a brief survey of the Christian life from inception to maturity)  His Story—the Life of Christ Bill George (recaptures the greatest life ever lived in the context of His own time)  *Be the Leader You Were Meant to LeRoy Eims (covers the biblical principles of leadership)  *Leader's Guide (contains transparency masters)	\$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50	*What Works When Life Doesn't Stuart Briscoe (gives practical help from the Psalms for times of unhappiness, fear, guilt, world chaos)  *Leader's Guide. (contains transparency masters)  What About Tomorrow? Clyne W. Buxton (describes the events preceding and following the return of Christ)  Church of God Distinctives Ray H. Hughes (discusses the doctrine, evangelism, worship, government and policy of the Church of God)  *What Did Jesus Say About That? Stanley C. Baldwin (supplies answers on what Jesus said about faith, prayer, money, marriage, divorce, etc.)  *Leader's Guide (contains transparency masters)  *Now a Word From Our Creator (provides a study of the Ten Commandments today)  *Leader's Guide	\$1.95 \$1.75 \$1.75 \$1.95 \$1.95 \$2.25 \$ .95

#### FROM CATERPILLAR TO BUTTERFLY

(Continued from page 11)

unmercifully. Some people are like the mantis, too."

I started to leave, but Mr. Avery stopped me again. "You know, Bill, we all can change, can improve.

Some more easily than others, maybe. But judge others like you would want to be judged. Clean your own doorstep!"

He smiled, then said, "And why don't you talk to

Dave on your way out.'

I was startled. "You knew! Did Dave say something?"

"No, I just happened to hear you talking today—not eavesdropping, mind you—and, well, I was really surprised at you. Dave's a popular boy and he has a lot of changes to make—new friends, a new life. Now, I'll see you tomorrow."

I turned to go, but stopped once more. "Mr. Avery, what would you have done if I had not answered

caterpillar?"

"It wouldn't have made any difference," he laughed. "There's a little good to be found in *all* of God's creatures."

"Yeah, sure," I said. "You know, there's more to

you than I thought!"

"Well, just remember, there won't always be someone around to overhear your conversations and straighten you out later. See you tomorrow."

I ran down the hallway, threw my books in my locker, and went looking for Dave. I found him talking to Chuck and Barry again. My indignation started

to rise, until I heard what he was saying.

"I'm different now. I accepted Jesus as my Savior and I have a new life to lead, new things to do, and a whole lot to catch up on. I can't go to your party but I would like to invite you to church Sunday, if you'd come."

They looked at each other, startled, then Barry replied, "Sure, why not? If you can take it I can."

"Great!" Dave laughed. "See you Sunday at ten o'clock."

As he walked away Chuck yelled, "I'll see you Sunday, too, Dave. Got to keep an eye on Barry—make sure he don't get converted or something!"

Dave laughed, but I think his enthusiasm was dampened when he saw me running towards him.

"Dave," I yelled. "Wait up a minute."

"What do you want?" he asked, eyeing me suspiciously.

"Well, I was wondering," I paused to catch my breath, "If you . . . well, you're already witnessing for the Lord. Me, I've just been sitting on my laurels. Well, would you pray for me?"

Dave smiled—a big smile—as he put his books down, and knelt beside me. He said, "You know, you kind of embarrassed me into taking a stand today, one way or the other. I've been going the other way too long." He paused. "We can learn a lot from each other, maybe?" he said; then he bowed his head.

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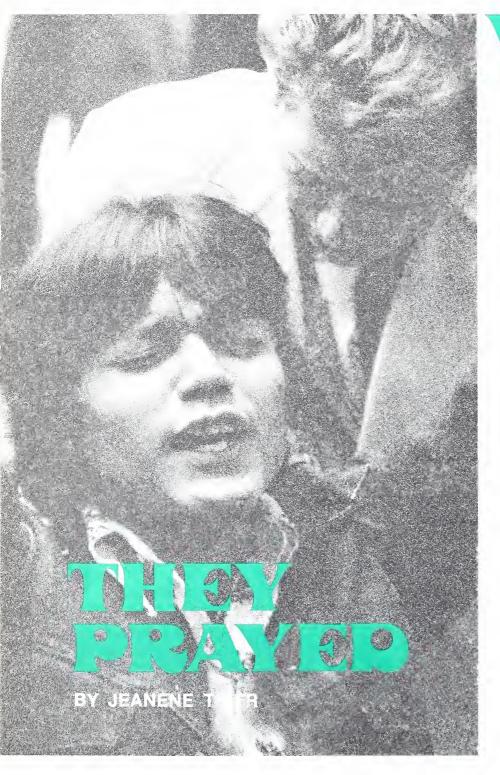


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17



e talk with God when we pray. Although prayer is important, it is not expensive. Neither is it hard to do. It is as simple as following Jesus' command: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

If you take a branch of green leaves and lay them in the hot sun on a concrete sidewalk, the leaves will wither and die. If you take a burning piece of wood from the fire in a campfire, it will burn itself out. In the same way young people lose the love burning in their hearts for God if they do not commune often with Him.

The Bible gives many examples of people who prayed. Job remained a man of prayer even when many bad things came his way. David prayed before going to meet Goliath. Daniel prayed when his enemies tricked King Darius into throwing him into the lion's den.

When Jesus began His work of teaching, He started with forty days of fasting and prayer. When He faced the sleepless night that He was betrayed, He spent the time in prayer.

These famous people prayed, and we can too. Some youths are not sure what they should say in prayer to God. The answer is simple. First, talk to God about the things which are bothering you the most. Then you can pray for your family, your friends, and others you know who need His help. Thank God and praise Him.

Remember, God is the best friend a person can have. Never lose heart. God is always there ready to hear your prayers.

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school, his fingers had become too stiff and gnarled from heavy labor to master the artist's brush. Shortly after Knigstein knew he could never become a painter, Durer came upon him unexpectedly and found him kneeling, hands uplifted, unselfishly praying for the continued success of his friend. Durer was so touched, he immortalized those expressive hands in his world-famous painting. Actual size 3½" high.

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# MASTER'S PLAN FOR YOU

#### BY GRANT McCLUNG

mythical story is told about a group of high school seniors who were celebrating their graduation with a beach party. Into the middle of the laughing, eating, and playing came a strange little man, bent with age, carrying under his arm a small box. Gesturing to one of the young men, the gentlemen invited his curious subject to peer inside of this amazing little contraption.

In a mixture of bewildcrment and excitement, the young man exclaimed, "Wow, I ean't believe it." You see, this little box was a camera; but not an ordinary camera. Rather than producing pictures of the present, this strange little device gave glimpses of the future. "This is too much," he said. "This is a picture of what I have always wanted to be." And there he stood, mouth wide open and eyes popping, looking at a picture of a medical doctor dressed in a surgical gown and operating on his first patient.

By now the erowd had gathered, pushing and shoving to get a closer view of the strange little man and his "future machine."

"Hey, I was here first."

"Move over. I can't sec."

"Wait a second. I want to look."

One by one the amazed teenagers caught a glimpse of their future careers. One saw himself as a professional athlete; another saw herself in a laboratory conducting research; and others saw the amazing transformation from high school senior to lawyers, nurses, accountants, ministers, and designers.

But momentarily the crowd stilled as a young girl eried and screamed, "What is the matter with the machine? All it shows for me is a blank piece of paper!"

"Yes," the mysterious man explained, "there's nothing for your future because ten years from now you won't be here."

"Stupid story," one might say; or it might be called freaky or weird.

Sometimes when we look at what is "out there in the future," we feel unsure, unaware of what we should do. We often wonder, How should I plan? Where will I go? What will I do? Who or what will I become? Things seem to change so fast.

Longfellow said, "All things must change, to something new, to something strange."

The songwriter catches the mood:

We are wandering, we are wandering
Like the shadows of the sun,
Never quite the same at evening
As when morning has begun;
Tasting wine from many vineyards,
Testing Truth from many shores;
Looking in at fun-house mirrors,
Looking out from prison doors.

We are searching, we are searching
In the tea leaves on a spoon,
Placing palms upon a table,
Charting phases of the moon;
Tearing cobwebs from illusions,
Spinning new ones in their place;
Finding solice in a chalice,
Or forgiveness in a face.

We are changing, ever changing Like the winds upon the sand, Looking in to find a meaning, Reaching out to touch a hand. This address was given to the graduating seniors of the Clovis, California, Church of God in May, 1976. At that time Grant McClung was director of public relations for West Coast Bible College. Presently, he is a professor at the European Bible Seminary in Rudersberg, West Germany.

Two years ago at the graduation exercises of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the nation's leading universities, the college president said, "The world into which we were born is dead, and the world in which our children will live is not yet evident."

For you graduates, the world into which you were born is dead. Today's teens have 1950's parties, grease their hair, and roll up their levis like "The Fonze." They squeeze their hair into ponytails; wear bobby socks, saddle oxfords, and long skirts; and get a kick out of the "nostalgia trip." But those roaring days of the Fifties, during which you were born, are now gone. This is 1976. Add another seventeen or eighteen years, the average age of the high school graduate, and you come up with the year 1993 or 1994. Nineteen hundred ninety-four—that's almost the year 2,000! We often ask ourselves these questions: "What will I be doing then? Where will I be in the year 1994?"

Without knowing all the details of our life, I believe you and I can be confident about our future if we have a master design, a master plan, and master control.

First of all, a master design will give us direction. As we got out of bcd this morning, brushed our teeth, snatched a few hurried bitcs of breakfast, and dashed to school, we were a part of a master design. Whether we realize it or not, we human beings live on a planct that is carefully organized in its precision-like functions.

Tanned faces and short sleeves remind us that spring is saying good-bye and summer is almost here. Why the change from winter to spring to summer to fall to winter to spring to summer, and so on? Because of a master design.

Man in this "enlightened twentieth century" has devised expensive defense systems and radar devices—but for hundreds of years birds have flown south for the winter and returned hundreds of miles to their original nests when spring dawns. Bats fly through the darkest caves searching for food with a sophisticated "built-in radar" which intrigues and baffles scientists.

We "o-o-h" and "a-a-h" over beautiful slides and

pictures that friends capture on film with an amazing device called the camera. Yet, since the time man has walked on the earth, his "built-in camera" has recorded mental images of beauty. Yes, the remarkable member of the body known as the eye is amazing in all its intricate workings.

We brag about our air-conditioned and heated homes and offices. Expensive cars have a special "climate control" mechanism that controls the car's interior temperature to a comfortable level for the occupants and driver. Yet, where is the switch for the "climate control" of the universe that brings a refreshing spring rain or a cool summer breeze?

Manufacturers produce exotic and expensive perfumes, but can they replace the naturally sweet fragrance of the rosc or honeysuckle or orange blossom?

In view of this order, this beauty, this precision, can't we say that there is a master design? And if there is a master design, there is a Master Designer! The Psalmist David came to this realization and he proclaimed: "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:1-9).

In another psalm he says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Psalm 19:1). Yes, the heavens and the natural creation around us declare the master design of God.

(Continued on page 22)

#### THE MASTER'S PLAN FOR YOU

(Continued from page 21)

Not only do we see a master design for the universe and the world, but we also see a master plan for our individual lives. God has a plan for each of us. And God's plan is better than ours because He created us. God's plan is better than ours because He sees things in their true perspective and focus. God's plan is better than ours because He has the power to accomplish His plan and purpose.

The doubter asks, "You mean to say that this great God who designed and controls this universe knows me and has a plan for my life?"

Yes, contrary to what some may think, God did not just wind up this earth like an alarm clock and set it to spinning in space. Instead, He carefully watches over the universe. Furthermore, He even enters into our own little world and becomes a part of our everyday life. He did it through His Son, Jesus Christ.

You see, to the biologist, we are nothing more than a composition of cells, tissue, and bones. To the ehemist, we are just a mixture of chemicals and minerals worth less than one dollar. To the politician, we are just a vote—another tally mark in a numberless sea of faces. To the materialist, we are just another dollar sign, able to buy "things." Yes, the world loves things and uses people, but God uses things and loves people. To God, we are His highest creation whom He loves and desires to know in an open friendship and communication.

The faet that God is interested in us as individuals is illustrated by Jesus' teaching about *one* single lost coin, *one* little lost sheep, *one* young man who left home.

So as you graduate and go out into the wider world of further education, jobs, careers, marriages, and new families, I would not offer you "good luek." (Some believe that good luek will come to them if they eross their fingers, knock on wood, find four-leaf clovers, and earry rabbits' feet.) But I would tell you that you must have a master design and a master plan. You must choose to follow the Master's design and the Master's plan for your life if you want to be truly happy.

David understood this when he said: "O Lord, You have searched me (thoroughly) and have known me. You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off. . . . You sift *and* search

out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, lo, O Lord, You know it altogether. . . . You have beset me *and* shut me in behind and before, and have laid Your hand upon me" (Psalm 139:1-5, *Amplified*).

But the Master's design and the Master's plan will be effective in our lives only as we yield to the Master's control. Ask any pilot where he gets his instructions, warnings, and help, and he'll quickly tell you from master control. Now that you are graduating, it is time to contact Master Control before you taxi to the runway of life with all your hopes and dreams and aspirations. For only as we ask Him will He come and give direction, order, and success to our lives. He tells us in the book of Jeremiah, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Again in Proverbs 3:5, 6 we are told, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

In conclusion, I'm here to testify to the fact that in my life I found the Master's design, the Master's plan, and the Master's control to be the most rewarding realization of my life. Eleven years ago I met my wife. Janiee and I were both in the summer transition from our freshman to our sophomore year of high school. We now have been married five years and have a wonderful two-year-old son; we will be going to Europe for missionary service this summer. We have had much happiness together.

But why have I enjoyed so many satisfying experiences? Because I was better than someone else, or earned it?

No, never! My heavenly Father helped me to realize that I should follow the Master's design and the Master's plan, and then I came under the Master's eontrol. This all happened to me and can happen to you, "for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16, 17).



ust how does a boy or girl get a job these days? I've often wondered, so I decided to do some-

thing about answering my own question. I decided that a visit next door with Jerry Marlin, a tall neighbor boy, should bring some information.

Jerry never lacks a job. If one plays out, he always seems to be able to find another. The fact that there are many applicants does not appear to bother Jerry, for it seems to make no difference in the result. He usually gets the job anyway. To me, this points out that Jerry holds some secret for being the lucky one chosen out of a big number of other applicants.

At first when I asked his secret, he seemed hesitant to talk about it. Then when I told him that what he practiced might help others, this broke through Jerry's reserve. He not only gave me his rules. He wrote them out for me so that I would remember them and have no difficulty in passing them on. Here is Jerry's list that he gave me:

- 1. First of all, I pray and ask God to guide me in seeking a job. Then, I maintain a positive mental attitude, expecting everything to turn out for the best.
- 2. I ask myself, "Would I work?" I know I would, so I plan to sell this idea to the boss.
- 3. I dress so that I am well-groomed—neat, but not flashy.
- 4. While the employer and I talk, I sit still with hands folded in a relaxed manner.
- 5. I speak in a clear, relaxed manner.
- 6. I answer all questions promptly because I have thought ahead and prepared answers—not word-for-word answers, but just general ones.
- 7. I look straight at the manager. I keep eye contact at all times. I find great confidence

when I look at someone and say, "I will give you a fair day's work for a fair day's pay."

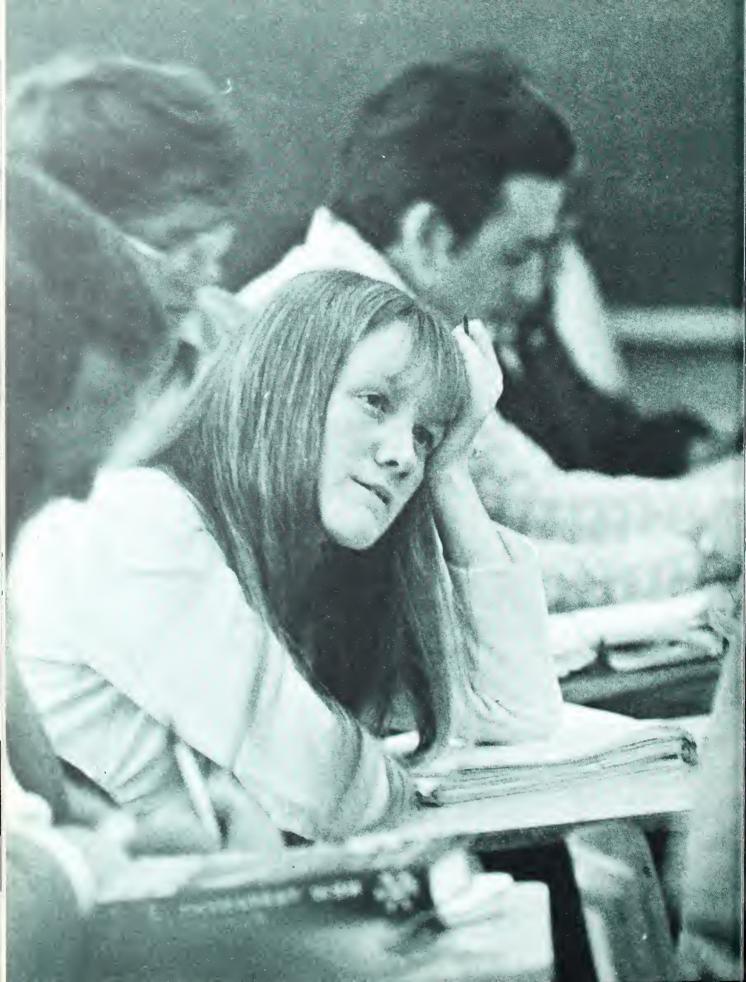
8. If I fail to get the job I congratulate the boy or girl who landed it. In my heart I am not bitter. Just by trying, I have gained that much more experience—"exposure," my dad calls it. I have given the interview my best. I know that another opportunity will open up, and I'll give it my best also.

And there you have the eight points that Jerry carries out to secure a job.

There was one thing Jerry did not mention which I felt, played an important part in his job successes. I have lived next door to Jerry's family from the time he was in grade school, and I have observed that Jerry is a boy who believes in himself and in his ability to do anything he sets out to do. And he has staying power—"stickability," some call it.

So if you are looking for a job during vacation, on Saturdays, or after school, you might want to formulate your own rules as Jerry did, or adopt some of his. Happy job hunting!

#### BY CATHERINE MANN



# BUT, MOM!

#### BY NINA COOMBS PYKARE

u "]

ut, Mom," I wailed.
"He's the most eligible boy in the whole school. How can I say no to him?"

Mom shook her head, but her firm and reasonable look was still there. "You can't date a boy your father and I don't know. And besides that, he's new in town."

"But, Mom-"

"Why don't you ask him over for an evening before the party. Then we'll see."

"But, Mom. I can't ask a perfect stranger over to be gawked at. It's absolutely humiliating. He'd never come."

"Your father and I don't gawk, Judy. We just don't intend to trust our only daughter to a boy we've never seen—a perfect stranger, as you just said. You may choose to ask him over or not. But you can't go to the party with him unless we've met him and approved."

I drooped and went up to my room. I know there is absolutely no may I can talk to my mother when she uses this firm-and-reasonable tone. This I know from past experience. Why, when Scotty and I wanted to go steady, we ran smack into that firm-and-reasonable brick wall. I'm practically the only "steadyless" girl in my class. Of course Scotty and I still date. But then when I saw Bruce Carpenter, I was plenty

happy to be technically unattached!

What a dreamboat! He drove his red convertible to school the first day. And he had the looks to go with it. Of course I didn't know him very well (I never would have admitted that to Mom), but I was hoping for a chance to get to know him better. All the girls were wild about him, and I was flabbergasted when he stopped at my locker to talk to me.

"How about a Coke?" he asked, showing all those gorgeous white teeth. I almost looked around to see if he could be asking someone else, but he was flashing that pearly smile just for me.

"Why sure." I tried to sound nonchalant, as if glamour types asked me out for Cokes every day.

When we walked over to the Cubby Hole where the gang gathers, did we get the looks! I slipped into the booth while Bruce got the Cokes. I almost choked on the first sip. I wasn't used to lemon Cokes; Scotty always ordered cherry for us. But then, new things go with new people—and Bruce was certainly new and different. I could almost feel those girls wishing they were me. We made the usual boy-girl talk; and then Bruce asked casually, "Got a date for the party?"

I took an extra large sip to hide my confusion. We hadn't mentioned it, but I knew Scotty was counting on me as I was on him. "No, not definitely."

"How about going with me?"

"Well—" I knew the rule about the folks knowing my dates, but I thought maybe I could get around the rules just once. "Could I let you know tomorrow?"

He looked rather surprised, but he nodded.

So here I was . . . I hadn't gotten around the rule, and I'd have to tell Bruce no. Unless . . . unless I could get him to come to the house first. But how? And

how could I put off giving him an answer? It was for sure I couldn't tell him the truth.

I pondered all night, and the next afternoon he stopped by my locker again. "Well, can you tell me now?"

Suddenly I found myself saying, "Would you like to come over tonight and play some records. Around seven?"

"Yes, guess I could. But what about the party?"

He wasn't going to wait any longer. So I said, "Sure, I can go with you." The minute it was out I began to worry. What if my folks said no after they met him?

Then I remembered another problem. If my parents said yes, what would I tell Scotty?

Seven o'clock that night took ages to come around. I had everything ready at six-thirty. I waited and I waited and I waited. At eight there was still no Bruce.

Dad shook his head. "That's all I need to know. A boy that doesn't keep his appointments—"

"Something probably came up," I said. But I didn't sound very convincing, even to myself.

"You'll just have to tell him no this time," Mom said. "Maybe later when we know more about him—"

"But, Mom, he might not ask me again."

Her look implied that that would be no loss. "I'm sorry, but that's the way it is."

So, the next day there was nothing to do but to tell Bruce of my decision. I was still a little huffy about being stood up. But his smile was so warm and friendly.

"Sorry about last night, but something came up," he said.

"I'm sorry, too," I said, "and, I guess . . . that is. . . ." I decided I might as well be blunt. "I won't be able to go to the party with you after all, Bruce. I am sorry. But you'll have time to ask someone else."

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

"Sure." There was a big silence. "Well, I'll be seeing you."

He looked rather startled. I guess girls don't turn Bruce down often. He didn't ask for any explanation, and I didn't give any. I knew he wouldn't eall me again. I tried to console myself: I hope my parents will be happy with their old-maid daughter.

Scotty called that n i g h t. "Heard you're going to the party with Bruce," he said. I detected a certain hurt in his voice.

"No. He asked me, but the folks said no. You know the rule. I would have called you, but. . . ."

"Sure." He sounded awfully funny.

"Scotty, what's wrong?"

"It's just . . . well, I heard that you were going with Bruce, and . . . well, we're not really steadies, and . . . and . . ."

Suddenly it dawned on me. "You asked someone else?"

"I'm sorry, Judy, honest. But Bruce said you were going with him."

"It's okay, Scotty; honest it is. You have a good time." I hung up and just sat there. Boy, if my world hadn't collapsed in a hurry. Now I didn't have any date at all, and the party was just four days away. What a mess! And I'd made it all by my little old self.

I drooped so much at supper that the folks exchanged looks. "You can still go with Scotty," Mom said.

I burst into tears. "I can't go at all. Scotty's got another date. And it's all your fault." With that I ran upstairs and threw myself on the bed.

The next day was the most miserable one I ever spent. I could hardly bear to look at Bruee or Scotty. And as for the girls they were dating, I didn't even want to think about them.

The phone rang that night after supper. "Hello," I answered dismally.

"This is Tom."

"Oh, hi!" I hoped I sounded brighter than I felt. Why was Tom calling me? Or any girl for that matter? He was almost antigirl.

"I was wondering . . . that is . . . uh, how about a date for the party?"

"Î... why that would be fine. Thanks." Good thing Tom was already parent-approved.

It wasn't until after I hung up that I got it. Tom was Scotty's cousin. Good old Scotty—at least he'd get me to the party.

The days went by and the party day came. As far as I was concerned I was about as happy over that party as I'd be over a whopping big exam. But I got ready, and while I was looking in the mirror my conscience spoke.

"You nut," it told my reflection, "this is a party, not a funeral. Buck up! Look alive! Scotty got you a date. It's hardly fair to ruin Tom's evening, too. Especially since he's only taking you as a favor to Scotty." I tried a smile. It was pretty awful, but it was a smile.

Just then the doorbell rang, and I went down to open the door for Tom. "Hi." Tom never had been much for dating, and he looked miserable—almost as miserable as I was earlier.

"Hi. Come in. You know my folks."

"S-sure." He grinned awkwardly. I almost expected him to shuffle his feet, but he didn't.

Onee in the car he seemed to feel better. I shouldn't have asked him, but I just couldn't resist. "Scotty asked you to call, didn't he?"

Poor Tom turned bect rcd. "Uh, I—"

"Never mind. I know. And thanks, Tom," I added warmly, "I'll try not to wreck your evening." He gulped a couple times and then got it out. "You won't."

When we got there, we greeted everyone. Scotty gave me our secret look to ask if everything was all right, and I did my best to say thanks. Then I stuck to Tom like glue. I wasn't going to horn in on Scotty's date. Instead, I concentrated on drawing Tom out of his shell and helping him to have a good time.

Bruce and his date left early. After a few of his suggestions for "livening" up the party were vetoed, they took off for faster places. I couldn't have cared less. I was having a swell time. I could see Scotty was too, and it didn't bother me! After all, I thought, why shouldn't he be happy too?

Time to break it up came fast, and soon we were on our way home. Tom was silent for a while, and I was busy thinking over the evening. Suddenly he spoke, "Thanks, Judy."

"Huh? What for?"
"For tonight."

"But I should thank you." I was getting confused.

"No. I've never had such a good time at a party before. It's all because of you. And look, I can even talk to you without stuttering. Thanks."

Now it was my turn to be struck dumb. Finally I mumbled something, and all was silent again.

"Could I call you again? For myself," he added as he turned in our drive.

Then I was *really* surprised. Tom!

"Why sure," I said. "'Bye, Tom." I turned at the door. "And thank you."

I've learned a lot this evening, I added silently, an awful lot. Funny thing about parents, I thought as I went up to bed, sometimes they have the right answers after all.

#### SURPRISE - YOUR PARENTS ARE HUMAN!

Do you think your parents are out of it — completely unaware of you, your problems, your world? Does it seem that only infrequently they are tuned in to your wavelength? Well, I have news for you: parents are flesh and blood human beings. In fact, they were once teenagers who thought their parents were out of it!

The truth is, God is not only interested in you, but He also favors your parents. That puts you and them on the same side if you and they know Him. It may surprise you that the Bible talks pretty favorably about moms and dads.

For example, Jesus said that parents will give good gifts to their children, and would not purposely do them harm. Too, the Bible promises you a long life if you will obey your parents.

Further, God's Word is pretty plain about the necessity of parental discipline. It says that when your parents punish you it is for your good, and Paul the Apostle warned that disobedience to parents would be a sign of a declining civilization just before the Lord returns.

Your parents have a lot on their minds — and their shoulders. They have to be so involved in their world of making a living and meeting obligations that they may seem to forget you. Anyway, that is how a famous writer named George Curtis felt when he wrote, "It is a great pity that men and women forget that they have been children. Parents are apt to be foreigners to their sons and daughters."

However, your parents are not at all against you. You are the apple of their eye. After God, they live for you, and they would die for you. Daily the spirit of their prayers for you may be that of the Psalmist, "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones" (Psalm 144:12).

In turn, pray for your parents. Shock them by being good, obedient, and optimistic. One of these days you will be a mature adult, and then you will probably understand them better. As someone has put it, "At twenty-five you will see that they were not so bad, and at thirty-five you will marvel at the wisdom they had."

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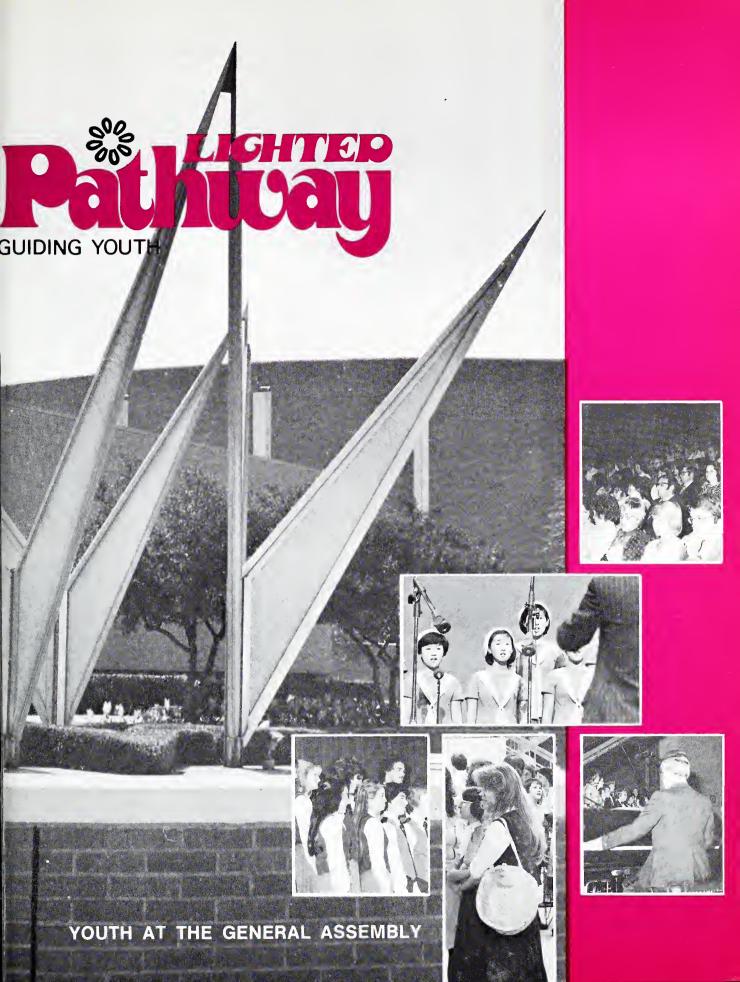
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One of several entrances to the sprawling Dallas Convention Center



Photo by Ledarra

## YOUTH NIGHT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### BY LAMAR VEST

Assistant General Director of Youth and Christian Education

"Happiness is different things to different people," or at least that's what a popular song says. And that's exactly what a Church of God General Assembly is—it is different things to different people.

The General Assembly is known in the convention business as one of the largest international church conferences in the world. It is a church conference, but it is more—much more. It is a praise-gathering, a music festival, a fellowship assemblage; and it is Christian communion in its rarest form.

The General Assembly is people—people enjoying the fellowship of other people. It is people from all over the world worshiping, rejoicing, and making commitments to specific works God has called them to do. It is people who have common goals and objectives for the work of the Lord on this earth.

The General Assembly is young people. It is young people who know they are part of a loving church family who cares and plans for them. It is National Teen Talent competition, youth action rallies, teen afterglows; and it is a gigantic youth service on the final night.

What a service—Youth Night 1976! A dynamic musical pro-

Photo by Larry Benz



The Korean Youth Choir was excellent and sang several times during the Assembly.

gram was climaxed by a masterful gospel message—all planned with Church of God young people in mind. Youth Night has been a highlight of many of the fifty-five General Assemblies. However, there was something extra special about Youth Night at the Fiftysixth General Assembly. From the opening prayer it was evident that the sovereign hand of God which had guided ordained ministers through Spirit-anointed and unusually productive business sessions, and had touched singers and speakers in earlier services, was also present to anoint the Youth Night service.

Youth Night was moderated by Cecil R. Guiles, the former general director of Youth and Christian Education. Brother Guiles' chief desire for the service was to witness God's touch on Church of God youth in a very special way. He had called for days of prayer and fasting to that end, and God honored this effort by a mighty vindication of His presence.

National Teen Talent contestants were featured in the Youth Night musical program. They

Photo by Ledarral Brumley



The Assembly is a time of fellowship and worship for thousands of delegates.

#### YOUTH NIGHT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Continued from page 3)

were featured, however, not as contestants, but as dedicated youth who desire to use their talents in worship and praise to Almighty God. Also featured were the Lee Singers from Lee College; the New Life Singers from West Coast Bible College; the Korean Youth Choir from Seoul, Korea; and a mass youth choir under the direction of Bob Rodgers.

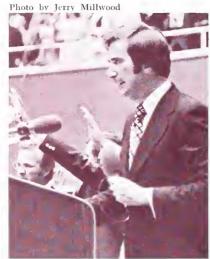
The Reverend Ronald E. Brock, pastor of the North Cleveland Church of God, was the youth night speaker. Each of his points was driven straight to the hearts of hundreds of young people who were reaching up to God and wanted to know His will. God's Spirit moved across the audience



Photo by Ledarral Brumley

like a tidal wave. People began to search out a place to pray even before the preacher had finished his message.

A Church of God Assembly is different things to different people. To the many young people who witnessed Youth Night 1976,



Ronald Brock, pastor of the North Cleveland (TN) Church of God, delivered a powerful, Spirit-filled sermon on Youth Night.

the General Assembly was an experience they will never forget. It was a life-searching experience in which a young person could find strength to look into his own life-style and motives. It was a life-enriching experience in which a young person could find hope for an uncertain future. It was a life-shaping experience in which a young person could find courage to follow Jesus Christ unashamedly.

The General Assembly is a teenage girl saying at the conclusion of Ronald Brock's masterful youth message, "For once in my life I have come in contact with real joy, and I'll never be the same." It is a teenage boy saying, "There is no more doubt in my mind. I know God has a work for me to do, and I intend to do it."

It's a pastor saying, "God has given me a new vision tonight. I really want to understand young people and to minister to them." It is a parent saying, "I found my son tonight." It is a church leader saying, "With young people like this, the future of the Church of God is bright."

Youth Night at the General Assembly is indicative of all youth programming promoted by the General Department of Youth and Christian Education. There is no attempt in any of our programming to create a feeling of people comprising voung "youth church within an adult church." Church of God young people are encouraged to find their identity in the church as a whole. The more young people are encouraged to move into total involvement in the body of Christ, the brighter our future becomes.



Photo by Jerry Millwood

Though members of the Korean choir spoke little English, they had carefully memorized the English words of their songs.



## DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Teen Talent provides youth with an opportunity for self-development and Christian service.

#### BY FLOYD D. CAREY

**General Director of Youth and Christian Education** 

hen the children of Israel crossed into Canaan, it was on the Jericho Road that the miraculous capture of Jericho transpired as they obeyed the directions of their leader. It was on the Jericho Road that Zaccheus climbed up into the sycamore tree to see Jesus as He passed by; and, as a result, Jesus went home with Zaccheus. It was on the Jericho Road that the sons of the prophets were working on a building. When a borrowed axe head fell into the water, it was rescued by a miracle as the prophet Elisah responded to the need. It was on the Jericho Road that two blind men called out to Jesus as He passed by, and their sight was restored. It was on the Jericho Road that when a certain man going from Jerusalem to Jericho fell among thieves, he was assisted by the Good Samaritan.

The Jericho Road is the road of opportunity and it runs by your home, your school, and your church; and there is always "a certain teenager" there who will respond to the opportunity.

The Church of God Teen Talent program represents a road of opportunity for young people in the area of

music, writing, and art. It provides a setting in which Christian young people can feel the stimulating impact of competition, experience the thrill of making new friends, and formulate guiding principles regarding their talents and Christian service. The Teen Talent music program is a road of opportunity—a big road, a wide road, and a properly marked road.

Over ten thousand young people walked on the Teen Talent road of opportunity in 1976. Throughout America in regional and state competition, young people discovered the pleasure and the profit of participating in the Teen Talent program and using their talents for the glory of God. God was glorified in the Teen Talent program because individuals accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior as choirs sang under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Families were won to the local church, the needs of individuals were met, and persons committed their lives anew to Christ as young people used their talents in playing musical instruments, in singing, and in worshiping God with a genuine love.

In August the Teen Talent road of opportunity led to Dallas, Texas, for some one thousand young people participating in national competition. The competition countdown began on Tuesday and concluded on Friday evening—four days of spectacular competition in an atmosphere of love, warmth, and sparkling anticipation. The competition was conducted in a theater building and it was filled almost to capacity during each of the sessions. A total count of the persons attending the eleven sessions was approximately eleven thousand.

What does it mean for a young person or a group to take part in national competition? First of all, it represents a fabulous trip to a colorful city, Dallas, Texas. The sights and sounds experienced on the trip provide exposure and experiences that will make a lifelong impact for good on the life of an individual. The relationship with other young people from almost every state in the Union creates an environment that gives a young person a sense of belonging and understanding that they cannot receive anywhere else. And, the feeling of being touched by God to use talents

Choirs came from throughout the United States to compete. Shown here is the youth choir from the Southside Estates Church of God, Jacksonville, Florida.



Photo by Jerry Millwood

for the upbuilding of His kingdom and to witness His love and concern for man is a feeling that provides a spirit of security and an inner dimension of faith that enables a person to live life at its fullest and its highest.

The Church of God Teen Talent program is not designed simply to select winners, it is a program that encourages and leads young people to use their talents for the glory of God as a way of life. When this principle is understood, the pursuit of being acclaimed as a national champion is not the first priority. The first priority is to use talents for the glory of God. The winners who were proclaimed champions in the following categories used their talents for the glory of God: Vocal Solo, Lynn Golden;

Instrumental Solo—Keyboard, Yvonne Bell; Instrumental Solo—Non-keyboard, Michael Smith; Instrumental Ensemble, Westmore Ensemble; Vocal Ensemble, Joy Bells; Choir, Mableton Youth Choir. Also, every person who took part in local, state, and national competition used their talents for the glory of God. The national finals at the General Assembly did not conclude the Teen Talent program for 1976, it emphasized that Teen Talent is a way of life for Church of God young people—a road of opportunity.

Young person, the Teen Talent road of opportunity passes your home, your school, and your local church. It is not a seasonal program, you can walk on it every day of your life by determining to use your talent for the glory of God. Teen Talent is a way of life!

youths and adults enjoyed the Teen Talent tition.



erry Millwood



judges carefully ated the perforse of each con-



Raymond Pettitt, who himself was a contestant a few years ago, helped to coordinate the program this year.

### NATIONAL TEEN TALENT WINNERS

WOZIC DIAIZION					
Category	Winner (Person - Group)	Church	State		
Vocal Solo Instrumental Solo	Lynn Golden	Eighth Avenue (Knoxville)	Tennessee		
(keyboard) Instrumental Solo	Yvonne Bell	North Cleveland	Tennessee		
(non-keyboard) Instrumental	Mike Smith	Clovis	California (N.)		
Ensemble	Westmore Ensemble	Westmore (Cleveland)	Tennessee		
Vocal Ensemble	Joy Bells	Paw Creek	North Carolina		
Choir	Mableton Youth Choir	Mableton	Georgia		
	CREATIVE ART	DIVISION			

#### Category Winner Church State Ceramics Jim Hull Uniontown Pennsylvania Elaine Ponce Graphics Hilo Hawaii John Vleck Calvary Temple (Buxton) North Dakota Painting Photography John Music Kearsley Park (Flint) Michigan Sculpture Janice Storey Mount Vernon Indiana Patti Root Textiles Corbin Kentucky

#### CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

Category	Winner	Church	State
Short Stories (fiction)	Belinda Ford	Southside (Tampa)	Florida
Articles and Essays (nonfiction)	Cindy L. Sharp	Woodbridge	Virginia
Plays and Skits (fiction and nonfiction)	Mark Stauffer	Reamstown	Pennsylvania
Poetry (rhymed and unrhymed)	Eugene A. Rice, Jr.	Kimberly	Alabama

glanced at the speedometer and accelerated slightly, glad that the highway was nearly deserted. I would be home just in time.

The idea of being home again made me grin and swallow simultaneously. I hadn't been back since the beginning of the fall semester at State College, thanks to my part-time job and an evergrowing mound of class projects. But now I was free—for four days, at least. And I couldn't remember looking forward to any Thanksgiving as much as I was looking forward to this one.

"I really appreciate the lift, Rick."

"What?" I had nearly forgotten about Paul, even if he was sitting only a few inches away. "Oh, yeah. I'm glad it worked out."

"Nearly all the other guys left last night. I thought I was going to be stuck there for the whole weekend."

I smiled but didn't answer. "You work at Mason's, don't you?" Paul asked suddenly.

I forced a smilc. "Yeah, I do." "I guess you had to work last night, huh?"

I nodded. Why couldn't he shut up and enjoy the scencry?

Thanksgiving was special at our house. It wasn't just another holiday where you stuff yourself and can hardly get out of your chair, although we always had plenty to eat. Mainly it was a family day, and we always took time to say why we were thankful.

A lot of people celebrate Thanksgiving by inviting others into their homes. We never did—just ourselves; and the fewer relatives the better. I think we would have felt self-conscious with a mob around. Besides, it just wasn't our kind of Thanksgiving.

## OUR KIND OF THANKSGIVING

BY ALAN CLIBURN

"What are you taking this semester?"

I stared straight ahead and managed a terse "Just the required stuff. I'm only a freshman, you know." Paul had to know that; we were in frosh English together!

Nobody made cranberry sauce like my mom—man, I could almost taste it as we crossed the bridge halfway between college and home! I felt so great I even smiled when Paul asked another question, as he did shortly.

"Do you know where Ainsworth Avenue is?"

"Sure, just a couple blocks over from the high school," I told him. "Say, how long have your folks lived in Barrington?"

"They don't," he replied. "It's my Aunt Sarah—Sarah Wingate. She invited me."

"Good."

"Well, she may not be there," he continued. "She thought she might have to fly to New York, but she said I could come anyway if I wanted to. The freezer's full of food, so I figured I might as well."

"Why not?" I agreed.

I forgot about Paul as I entered the Barrington city limits. My stomach was full of butterflies, as if I hadn't seen my folks in two and a half years instead of two and a half months! "What a great Thanksgiving!" I said out loud.

I wasn't talking to Paul, but I guess he thought I was. "The Thanksgiving holiday is a mean-

ingless ritual," he replied bluntly. "A mockery."

Ordinarily I would have set him straight, but I was too close to home to get involved in an argument, so I just shrugged.

"If people were really thankful—to God or whatever—they would be thankful the whole year, not just one day," Paul went on.

"What's the number on Ainsworth?" I asked.

He fished out a letter before answering. "614."

I drove the three blocks in silence and pulled up in front of a big house with all the shades drawn

"Thanks again, Rick," he said.



"I can take a bus back; I probably won't stay the whole weekend."

"I'm going back Sunday afternoon if you change your mind," I offered.

"Thanks," he said.

"Have a nice Thanksgiving!" I called.

He just looked at me.

I probably broke a few traffic laws getting to my place. I felt sorry for Paul, even if I wasn't sure what his problem was. But I could find out later—maybe when we were back at school.

Our house looked beautiful—a new roof, I think—and I had barely turned off the motor when the front door banged open and Robbie roared out, followed by Dad, Joanie, and finally Mom, still in the apron I had given her for Mother's Day. We had never been much for physical displays of affection in the front yard, but for a minute I thought it was Christmas and I was standing under the mistletoe!

"Come inside, Rick," Dad invited. "We'll get your gear later."

We had a cozy living room, and the fire was crackling away. "Man, is it ever fantastic to be home!" I sighed, flopping down on the couch.

"We expected you earlier," Mom said, dashing back to the kitchen.

"I had to bring a guy from the dorm with me," I shouted after her.

"I didn't know any of your college friends lived here," Joanie began. "Is he cute?"

"He doesn't live here," I told her. "And how would I know if he's cute?"

"Wait till you see the choice monster models I've made," Robbie announced. "Come on, they're in my room."

"Our room," I reminded him with a light swat. "Is anyone coming to eat with us, Dad?"

"Uncle Dan and Aunt Betty

were, but changed their minds," Dad answered. "I guess they knew we'd want to have you to ourselves today. They'll be dropping by while you're home, though."

"Good," I grinned. "I've missed everybody—even old Mrs. Wilkins at the library!"

As I relaxed in front of the fire I was almost overcome with the combined aromas of Mom's feast, plus the sentimentality of the occasion. But something kept bothering me, even if I tried to push it aside. It really had nothing to do with me, after all.

"Does anybody know a lady named Sarah Wingate?" I heard myself ask.

"She's the new girls' v.p. at school," Joanie said. "Really nice."

I felt strangely relieved. "Good."

"But she's not here now."

"She's not?"

"She took a jet to New York last night," Joanie explained. "It's something about the foreign exchange students' program. How do you know her?"

"The guy who rode home with me is her nephew."

"We're just about ready!" Mom smiled as she came in from the kitchen. "It's so nice to have the whole family together again!"

It was nice, all right; but I didn't feel nearly the excitement I had expected to feel. Coming home I had pictured the five of us—my family—around our table, talking and laughing and being thankful in our special way.

Now all I could see was Paul Evans, sitting alone in a gloomy kitchen at his aunt's place. What he said so bitterly about Thanksgiving stayed with me, too. He had been wrong; my family at least was thankful every day, not just once a year. I had been in such a hurry to get home I even let his "to God or whatever" slip by unchallenged.

"The boy who rode home with me," I said suddenly. "He doesn't have any place to go for Thanksgiving dinner."

"What about his aunt?" Dad asked.

"Time to carve, Ed," Mom called from the kitchen.

I followed Dad, and Joanie and Robbie followed me. "His aunt is away," I explained. "He's all alone."

They looked at me like I had suggested that we blow up city hall.

"You want to bring him here?" Dad said, frowning.

"Oh, Rick, it would spoil everything!" Joanie wailed. "I don't even care if he is cute!"

"He'd probably eat my drumstick!" Robbie complained.

"Couldn't we invite him some other time, Rick?" Mom asked. "Perhaps tomorrow."

I didn't know what to say at first. This was my family—the one I had missed so much, the one that taught me the power of prayer and daily devotions. I had been ashamed of myself before, but for a moment I was ashamed of each of them.

"I don't believe he's a Christian," I began slowly.

Their expressions changed—even Robbie's—and Dad smiled. "Forgive us, Son. We were being selfish. How long will it take to pick him up?"

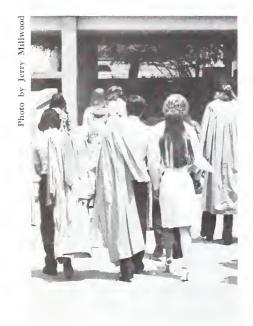
"Just a few minutes," I promised. "I'll be right back—and thanks!"

No matter how hard we tried I knew it wouldn't be the same with Paul there, and I was sorry about that as I drove to his aunt's place on Ainsworth.

But only until I saw the surprised look on his face when he answered the bell. No kidding, I thought he was going to cry.

"Our turkey's too big; you'd better come help us eat it," I ordered gruffly. "Anyway, I'd like you to meet my family."





ow was it the week of August 16-23 in Dallas, Texas? Do you remember? Chances are that it was one General Assembly you won't forget. If it was your first visit to the eity of Dallas, you were in for a treat. The Texans were hospitable and really treated everyone right. One teenager from the Midwest observed, "I noticed that even though Dallas was a large eity, it was kept in order; and it seemed to be an ideal place to hold the General Assembly." Another remarked, "It eertainly was hot, and I was glad to be in an air-eonditioned ear."

Cary Blumhagen from Bismarek, North Dakota, comment-



ed, "I stayed at the Adolphus Hotel, on the twenty-second floor. That seemed like a long way up, espeeially when the elevator stopped on praetieally every floor." Some had problems getting settled in their rooms, but that didn't last long. After everyone had ehecked in, it was then time to enjoy the Assembly. On Monday evening, the program eentered on family emphasis. It was refreshing to see families both worshiping together and

leading in worship.

Whether you participated or not, the Teen Talent was a highlight of the Assembly. To someone unfamiliar with the national eompetition, the talent is remarkable! One teen commented, "I attended much of the Teen Talent eompetition, and I was very impressed and grateful to God for the tremendous talent of the young people in our church. Each performance was a winning one, and each competitor was a champion." A Teen Talent partieipant said, "I attended almost every session, and found that the national finals competition was very tough." The national winner in the Oil Category of Teen Talent Art humorously reflected, "I'm a eommercial artist. I do all my painting during television commercials." This program is unequaled in its ability to discover and develop the talents of teenagers.

Gerald Johnson, pastor from Louisiana, sounded a positive note in the first Action Rally; and the response to his powerful sermon was exciting. The moderator of the Full Gospcl Church of God in South Africa, J. F. Rowlands, preached a "jewel" of a sermon; and his earthy illustrations and practical applications were understood by all.

It was encouraging to see teenagers manifest a real interest in the General Council deliberations. Many were seated in the balcony, taking it all in. Our ordained ministers were a beautiful example of Christian unity. They allowed God to guide their deliberations, and this will be remembered for a long, long time.

The General Assembly offered a unique opportunity for young people to get together. College classmates were reunited for a weck. New acquaintances and lasting friendships were made.



Hundreds of Church of God young people from across the world gathered in Dallas. It was a sight to behold! The memory of wonderful fellowship will encourage many in the days ahead. Ted Ostrowski from Mosinee, Wisconsin, seemed to sum it up best when he said, "Just to know that there are Christian young people all across America is a blessing to my heart, and this



makes me want to do more for the Lord than I have ever done before."

The services in the main auditorium were something special! The Holy Spirit swept over the vast crowds, and young people were filled anew with God's power. General Overseer Wade H. Horton and the Reverend Earl F. Hall seemed to sense the pulsebeat of the church as they delivered their messages, which met the needs of the people. One teenager said, "The services were all just great. The Lord really had His way and wonderfully blessed everyone there. I just wish everyone could feel the Spirit of God and know how happy He can make vou."

The vision of world evangelism was graphically portrayed by the colorful costumes worn by people representing countries the world over. It helped me to realize that this is a huge church with global concerns. When one views the Church of God from that perspective, it makes a difference. Brother J. F. Rowlands graphically punctuated his sermon with slides; and one wonders how many future missionaries felt God tugging at their hearts that morning.

The Youth Service was the culmination of a glorious week. Glen Sayler, a young evangelist from Beulah, North Da-

kota, remarked, "I was motivated and inspired by the Youth Service on Sunday evening. The message by Brother Brock (the Reverend Ronald E. Brock, pastor of the North Cleveland Church of God) and the outpouring of God's Spirit challenged me as a young person to discipline my life and to take a firmer stand for holiness and right living. I have a greater desire to please God and to be used in His service during these last days."

The Holy Spirit mightily anointed Brother Brock to share the Word. He zeroed in on youth problems, and only time will reveal all the good that was accomplished. It was thrilling to see young people standing for Christ all over the auditorium, making decisions that will influence the future of our church. One young person said, "I thought the service for the youth was really great. I believe that



God has a work for me to do—and not only for me but for the many other young people who were at the Assembly."

Yes, it was a week to remember. Many were of the opinion that this General Assembly was the greatest they had ever attended. It was the type of Assembly we'll be talking about for years to come. And you were there!



By Floyd D. Carey, General Director of Youth and Christian Education

he Youth in Action section will be a regular feature of the Lighted Pathway. It will spotlight youth in action in the local church, in state-sponsored projects, and in programs offered by the general department. Young people throughout the Church of God are excelling in academic achievements, community improvement endeavors, and spiritual development activities. If you have a Youth in Action news item, send it to the Gencral Department of Youth and Christian Education, Keith at 25th Streets, N.W., Cleveland, Tennessee 37311. Reports should not exceed 150 words in length. If a picture accompanies the report, it should be black and white, clear (not fuzzy), and not too dark.

#### High Spirit Among Youth in Mississippi

The young people in the Church of God in Mississippi are an exciting group of youth and are in high spirits! (It only took a visit to just a few of our churches to find this out.)

Why all the excitement and high spirits among Mississippi young people? Because, like most other young people, they like involvement, fellowship, fun, and, most of all, getting together to worship the Lord in singing praises, sharing testimonics, and hearing God's Word.

Having just completed our Spring Freedom Rally, youth activities at camp meeting, four weeks of youth camp, plus our local churches' youth activities, the Mississippi young people are in high spirits.—Billy J. O'Neal, state director

#### Youth Day at Florida Camp Meeting



One of the highlights of the year for young people in Florida is Youth Day at camp meeting!

The excitement generated by young people who are committed to Christ, to the church, and to

His cause is an expression of beauty to behold. The participation during the day-long program of activities and the attitude of worship that is exemplified during the services is truly indicative of their love and zeal for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our youth always leave the camp meeting knowing that God's Spirit will not lead them where His grace cannot keep them.—Robert Lee Cary, state director

Youth Camp—Spiritual Tide Runs High in Tennessee



It was the second night of youth camp. As the speaker closed his message, the Spirit of the Lord swept across the audicnce and several hundred teens began to weep before the Lord. What a blessed experience it was to be in God's presence.

This scene is duplicated time and time again throughout the Church of God during the youth

camp season.

Campers have found themselves right in the middle of God's blessings and spiritual outpourings. Youth camp provides the occasion for young people to get in touch with God. In a sense youth camp can be termed a youth revival.

When you have results like two hundred and thirty-four saved, eighty-seven sanctified, one hundred and twenty-eight filled with the Holy Ghost, and sixty-six baptized in water—that's a revival in anybody's book.

Youth camp is many things to many people; but to Church of God young people in Tennessee it is a place where the spiritual tide runs high!—W. A. Davis, state director

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by Clark Pinnock

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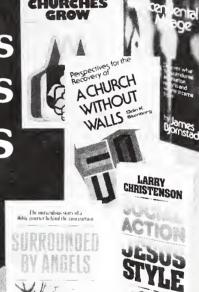
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# GREAT-GRANDMA'S RELIGION



ave you ever thought about church, religion, and related activities and how they might have affected the young adult a hundred years ago?

I am fortunate because my late great-grandmother, Lillic Shepherd Wright, lived until I was eighteen; and she talked often about her experiences as a young woman. My great-grandma was born in Connecticut. When she was seven, her mother was left alone to raise young Lillie. For this reason she decided to take the child and travel to Kansas where her parents had homesteaded on a farm near a little town now called Winfield, Kansas. They traveled as far as Ohio by train, for that was the "end of the line." The rest of the way Great-Great-Grandma Shepherd traveled by wagon, with little Lillie on one side of her and a loaded rifle on the other! Fortunately the rifle was never needed.

My great-grandma always attended church. But in Kansas, there was no church building. However, the people went to the general store on Sunday, where a counter was cleared and used as the pastor's pulpit. The people sat either on chairs which they brought with them, or on boxes. The children sat on the floor. They sang without instrumental music and enjoyed it. The pastor "talked to them" and he "taught them":

Great-Grandma used to say that it was a combination of what we call Sunday school and morning worship today.

Any town problem was brought up right after church while all the townsfolk and neighboring farmers were on hand. Any decisions that needed to be made by the people of the area were discussed and made at that time.

When my great-grandma was twelve, she accepted Christ and was baptized in water. Over and over she told me about the day she was baptized; and yet, I never got tired of hearing her story. On the morning of her baptism, Lillie got up early and was too excited to eat. She put on her new dress which her mother had made from material a loving aunt from Connecticut had sent her. It had taken that material more than a month to reach Kansas. The family (Lillie, her mother, and her grandparents) waited until her mother's two brothers had cared for the stock and had washed up. Then they started on the dusty road to town, and on beyond town to the Walnut River.

At the river the pastor came to the wagon and helped Lillie Augusta down. Then he and the child knelt on their knees and prayed together. When they got up, they walked to the river. Everyone there seemed to be smiling. The worship service was held right there in the hot Kansas sun; and for awhile, Lillie thought that it would never end.

At last it was over and the pastor took Lillie's hand.

#### BY MARY LOUISE KITSEN

The people were smiling and crying at the same time as the pastor and the little girl walked out into the water. Then the pastor stopped and recited the story of Jesus' baptizing. The pastor baptized Lillie Augusta right there in Walnut River—new dress and all. When she came up, my great-grandma said that she had such a happy feeling inside she thought she would burst wide open.

The church members had planned a picnic by the river, followed by an afternoon of games and happy times of fellowship. As twilight arrived, they sang hymns by the light of a bonfire and had a short prayer service. My great-grandma was to remember that day for the rest of her life. Only one other day in

her life brought her so much joy.

As a young woman, Lillie Augusta Shepherd lived a quiet life on the farm, helping her mother and grandmother in the house, and doing her share of outside work too. By this time there was a small church in Winfield, which she attended regularly. Lillie taught Sunday school and sang in the small choir. Her social life as well as her spiritual life centered around the church.

While visiting relatives in Connecticut, Lillie Augusta met a young man named Frank Wright. He too was a dedicated Christian and she fell in love with him. However, young single ladies of that day would never stay in a location just to be close to a young man. So Lillie went home, knowing that if Frank loved her, he would take a proper course of action.

He did! He came to Winfield and asked my great-great-grandma for the hand of my great-grandma. Lillie and Frank were married in Kansas and then returned to Connecticut where Frank was a market

gardener with his father.

Lillie told her pastor that she would like to be married by the Walnut River where she had been baptized. So on a very hot, dusty August morning, Lillie, dressed in a pretty white dress made by her mother and grandmother, went to the bank of the river. There by the water, the pastor married the young couple. After the ceremony, there was a time of enjoying good food, visiting with the neighbors, and saying farewell. In

the early evening, as a soft breeze began to blow, the pastor led the people in a short service of prayer and song. What better way could a couple begin their married life!

Later that night the young couple boarded the train going east. Most of the townspeople were there. They stood outside of the window and the pastor lcd in a prayer for the new life they were starting together. My great-grandma said that the people who were passengers on the train bowed their heads too.

When the couple arrived in Connecticut, they were met by the family of the groom. His family had not gone to Kansas for the wedding because of their re-

sponsibilities of caring for their crops.

The very next day the pastor of my great-grandpa's church and his wife called on the newlyweds. They prayed together and talked together. Before they left, they asked Lillie to serve as their pianist. The church had been without one for several weeks. As it had been back in Kansas, my great-grandma's life in her new home reflected her dedication to Christ. She was a youthful wife, and in the first few years, she became the young mother of two little girls—my grandma Bessie and my great-aunt Mamie. Lillie played the piano at church, taught a Sunday school class, visited the shut-ins, and helped with church suppers.

By today's standards, the life Great-Grandma Lillie Wright led might be considered "dull." But, let me tell you, I've seen her face and watched her eyes as she talked. I've seen her excitement as she relived the day of her baptism and I've seen her happiness as she described her wedding day. I've heard her talk about rocking her baby girls and singing old hymns to them

in the front yard.

I, her great-grandchild, have traveled to many places, met famous people, had some wonderful experiences; but it seems the woman who talked to me during my childhood and teen years had an edge on me. Nonetheless, each of us can have the same joy and serenity that my great-grandma enjoyed for so many years. She had the old-time religion. The secret of which is to make Christ the center of one's life day after day.

## OUR COUNTRY

#### BY SU LANIER

(Given at the 1976 Florida Camp Meeting Bicentennial Program)

he year—1776! If I had been there, would I have fought as bravely or struggled as long? Could I have given my all? Would I have cared as much or shared as much in the founding of our nation? Would you?

We owe so much to them—those pioneers of old.

Columbus, thank you for your discovery. You gave your best in the exploration of a new world so that we might share in the excitement of a free world.

Patriots, thank you for your determination to make this a truly great nation.

Forefathers, thank you for developing our country—for changing it from those original thirteen colonies to this our fifty United States.

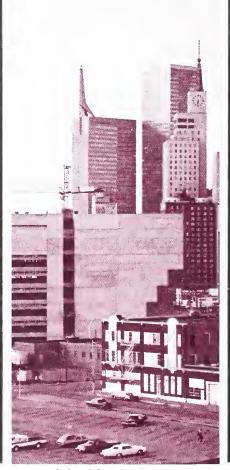


Photo by Ledarral Brumley

Warriors, thank you for our deliverance—deliverance from national oppression—that has made us free.

But, God, it is to You we give our utmost thanks for Your constant direction of our nation.

Discovery, determination, development, deliverance, direction—all have worked to bring our nation to this inevitable point in time. We are not as yet a perfect nation, but we must continue to strive for perfection. We are not as yet a peaceful nation, but we must continue to strive to be free from war.

God, I ask that You make these United States truly united. Bind this nation together. Help us to love You and to love our fellowman. Make this one nation, under God; for You, God, are the true founding Father—not only of our nation, but of the world.

God, make this nation indivisible: for Your own Word declares. "A house divided against itself cannot stand" (Matthew 12:25). Give us liberty throughout the land. Our feelings are expressed in the words of Patrick Henry, who said, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" And, God, just as You are a holy and righteous God, help us, as a nation, to follow in Your likeness, spreading justice throughout the land. Just as You are no respecter of persons, help us to be like You, spreading justice to all.

America, God shed His grace on thee. I pledge my allegiance to this one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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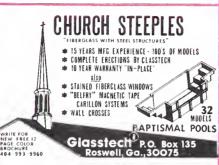
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## **IMMERSED**

My life, like an empty balloon, Lord, Is immersed in Your precious blood, Inflated with Your Holy Spirit And tied by faith to Your Word.

Oh, Satan's desire is to burst me,
To destroy that which is within;
His darts of temptations press on me,
Enticing my soul to sin.

Your blood, O Lord, is impenetrable, And Your Word no one can untie; By faith, O Lord, I shall serve You, Immersed in Your love, I'll not die.

-Charles E. Stidam

Charles E. Stidam is a student at Lee College studying for the ministry. He and his wife are members of the Fairview Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee.

BY AURORE' **G'ARDONEAU** 

Sunday school class has been studying about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and how He resisted the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). The teacher made a specific point that when we are tempted, we too should resist the devil. However, I dismissed the thought from my mind. After all, I reasoned, I probably would never be tempted as Jesus had been. Consequently, when my "wilderness" experience came, I wasn't expecting it.

Saturday was a rainy, gloomy day. I sat in my room bored. Out of habit I reached for a magazine, but then the thought came to me, Why don't you read the Bible? As I glanced at my Bible, another thought came to my mind, Why don't you go eat a snack instead? On the way to the kitchen this scripture came to my mind, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Immediately I went to my room and began to read my Bible.

Later a friend called to see if I could get my dad's car to go for a ride. I said, "My father told me not to use it in rainy weather because the brakes are not working properly. But I will drive it anyway."

After I hung up the phone, I didn't feel good. A voice seemed to say, "Don't be chicken; God will protect you." Then I remembered the scripture—"Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Matthew 4:7). Quickly, I picked up the phone and called my friend to say that I could not use the car.

Ouietly I sat in a chair by the window watching the falling rain. Like a flash the Sunday school lesson came to my mind. I was being tempted by Satan as Jesus had been, only in smaller ways and in my home—not in the wilderness, I thought. Aloud I said, "Get thee hence, Satan."

A small voice answered, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

I smiled. The rain stopped and the sun came out. A rainy, gloomy Saturday had turned into a beautiful day after all.

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## DID YOU READ ALL THE CONTRACT?

By Mrs. Glen E. Thomas

Millions of people have been to Calvary, have knelt symbolically before that rugged cross, and have received the spiritual benefits provided in the Bible—the "Contract of Salvation." But many contemporary subscribers have evidently neglected to read further in the Contract to discover what types of fringe benefits are also available. Read your Contract to see if you are one of these who seldom claims these benefits.

Listed below are additional benefits included in your Contract:

- Provisions have been made for all medicines (prepaid), with free services performed by a specified Physician (see Isaiah 53:5).
- Provisions have been made for financial coverage by a Banker who upon request, will supply my financial needs (see Philippians 4:19).
- Free services of a specified Attorney have been made available, no matter what type of intervention is needed (see Romans 8:26, 27).
- Constant protection has been provided by an Escort at all times (see Hebrews 13:5).
- Free services of a qualified Psychiatrist have been made available to me at any time (see 1 Peter 5:7).

Down through the centuries many subscribers have accepted the provisions of this Contract, contending that nothing was comparable to all the benefits provided in it. So, let us reread our Contract and begin submitting claims for all available services. We are still legally covered because there is no expiration date!

SIGNEP R. U. Sarved

## THE RIGHT TO LIVE

#### BY SHERRY LYNN WILSON

n July 1, 1976, the Supreme Court made a controversial statement on a bortion. They ruled that "any person, 18 or over, can have an abortion without the consent of parents or husband."

I feel that this is terribly wrong and that the Supreme Court has gone against the morals of our Christian nation and degraded mankind.

Human life is sacred. Whether the life is in the form of an old man or an unborn child, it is still God's creation. God is the creator of life, and it is not man's place to decide whether or not a human should live or die.

One of the Ten Commandments clearly states: "Thou shalt not kill." The Supreme Court, in my opinion, has broken God's commandment, and has disregarded the Bible.

What is the difference be-

tween the ruthless murder of an adult, and the senseless murder of an unborn child? There is none whatsoever. How can the Supreme Court rule that a murderer must serve time in a prison for taking a human life, and then contradict themselves by ruling that abortions are legal?

A group of anti-abortionists gathered outside an abortion clinic recently with signs protesting the legalization of abortion. One woman's sign showed a huge picture of a beautiful little baby with his eyes opened wide with wonder, and his little mouth grinning with happiness. The caption beside the picture read: "LET ME LIVE."

This is a reminder that an unborn child also has a right to live, and no one except God has the authority to take that right away.

What kind of a nation are we becoming when cold-blooded murder becomes legal?



# YOUTH CAMP OO - AN EXPERIENCE UNFORGETTABLE

BY RICHARD E. WALDROP



here are unforgettable experiences in the lives of young people which leave indelible marks in their minds for years to come—yes, even for an entire lifetime. Such an experience occurred in the life of a young boy at the tender age of ten. The setting was the Church of God Youth Camp in Louisiana in the summer of 1960. Two years earlier at youth camp, the youngster had been convicted of his sins as the Word was preached and had surrendered his life to Christ.

Now, in a similar environment, God began moving in the lad's heart again. The evening service was in progress. A group from a nearby local church began singing in the Spirit. The boy listened intently to the words of the song: "And if it be thy will, Lord, to go across the sea; Lord, help me to be willing to say yes."

Immediately, the youngster fell to his knecs and began to cry out to God. The Spirit of God dealt with him and revealed that he would become involved in missionary service. Later, the lad mellowed in spirit stood before the youth camp audience and testified to God's call upon his life.

From those days until these, I have kept in close touch with this young life; for indeed—it was mine! God has faithfully directed my steps since I was that small boy.

After high school graduation, I chose to attend Northwest Bible College in Minot, North Dakota, to prepare for foreign service. Upon college graduation, I married a young lady who also felt God's leading toward missions. We felt God directing our return to Northwest after two years of seminary work and a local church ministry. I have served my Alma Mater as Field Representative and Admissions Counselor for the past year. We are presently preparing for service in Costa Rica for the next several months.

I attribute the reality of my lifelong dream and calling to two factors: parents who saw the spiritual needs of their young son and leaders who provided an atmosphere for Christian commitment and growth at the Church of God Youth Camp!

o me, my dad is one of the greatest persons in all the world. He has been a preacher in the Church of God for as long as I can remember. His life has been a hard one, but he just keeps on walking with Jesus.

I regret that I have not been a Christian all of my life. I tried different ways to make life exciting, but I always ended up hurting the ones that I loved most—especially my own family. My daddy had a very important part in bringing me to God. He stood behind me, no matter how much I hurt him, and tried to help me the best he could.

Then one night something happened that caused me to realize how much Christ really loved me and how truly great was His sacrifice for me on Calvary.

I was baby-sitting for a family who lived down the street from my house and was becoming involved in some things that could have ruined my life if I had not changed. That night before I left to go baby-sitting, I told my mother about some of the things that I had been doing wrong, but I left out the worst part of my story. I don't know how He did it; but the Lord showed Mom the parts I left out, and she told Dad about it. That night my dad met me at the house where I was baby-sitting and walked home with me. I knew then that something was wrong because he had never done that before.

BY PAMELA JONES

## HE TOOK MY PLACE

We walked home in silence. It was late, so no one was up when we got home. My dad had a long talk with me. He told me that he knew and understood what I was going through and that he wanted to help me in every way he could.

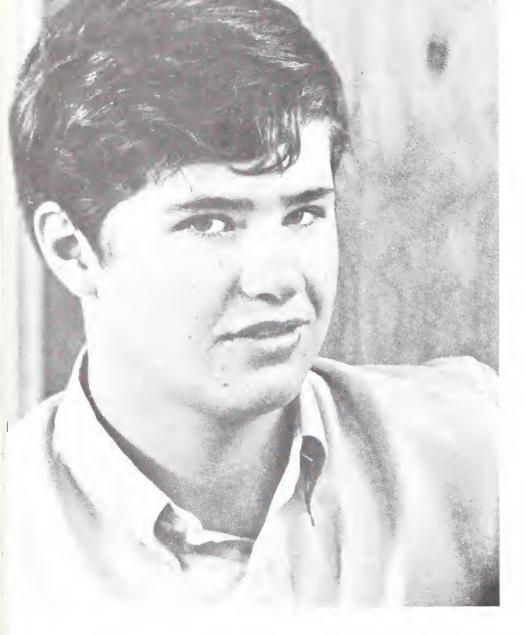
Dad went to get the strap that he uses to whip us kids. He handed it to me and said, "Pammy, I love you very much; and it is because I love you so much that I want to take your punishment, just the way Jesus took mine on Calvary. Now you take the strap and strike me with it."

I didn't want to hurt him; he hadn't done anything wrong. But he insisted that I hit him several times. Finally, I just couldn't do it anymore. It hurt me worse than any punishment he had ever given me.

That night I learned from Dad's lesson how great the sacrifice was that Jesus made for me. I was guilty of death, for I had done so many things wrong. But, because Jesus loved me, He was willing to take my place—to take the humiliation and pain for me!

I am very thankful for Christian parents who were willing to keep on correcting me until I finally realized what I was doing to myself. And it's because of Mom and Dad that I am serving Christ today.

I love my mom and dad very much because of all they've done, but most of all I love Jesus Christ with all of my heart. I want to serve Him in any area He may choose to use me.



## **DON'T** SAY IT!

#### BY RANDY TRAVIS

Perhaps you and your parents don't throw things at each other, but it's altogether possible that things you say or do make the situation at home a little tense from time to time. In Ralph's case he and his mother occasionally go for hours or even days, barely speaking to each other.

While Ralph's temper is fast and furious, so is his cooling off period. Depending on the circumstances, he is usually sorry within a few minutes after the outburst. Ralph is not only sorry, but willing to apologize, thinking that an apology will make things right again—instantly.

Having been the target of some of his angry onslaughts over the years, I can tell you that it is difficult to instantly forget all the things he said in anger and pretend he didn't say them. Especially since the same thing happens again and again.

Whether you like it or not, you arc responsible for everything that

ixteen-year-old Ralph was sealing an envelope when his mother walked up.

"What are you doing?"

she asked.

"Getting this ready to mail," Ralph replied.

His mother stared at the letter with a horrified look on her face. "You used the stamp I was saving!"

"It was in the stamp box with all the others," Ralph informed her, a little annoved.

"No, I had it over at one side —by itself," his mother insisted.

"Well, how was I supposed to know you were saving it?" Ralph demanded.

Before long, heated words were flying back and forth and eventually Ralph's mother hit him over the head with a pillow!

Sounds like something out of a poorly written comedy show on television, doesn't it? Unfortunately, it isn't. I know both Ralph and his mother (although I've changed the names, of course), and the above true incident is one of many which occur in that particular household on a regular basis.

comes out of your mouth.  $\Lambda$  baby or small child may rattle off a string of words without knowing what he's saying, but as a teenager you can't claim that combination of innocence and ignorance.

It's not always easy to think before you speak. (Read James 3: 5-8.) But for a Christian nothing is impossible—unless you rely on your own strength.

By the way, Ralph and his mother profess to be Christians, even if some of their verbal attacks on each other tend to refute that. It seems to me that much of the fault is Ralph's, though, regardless of who initiates the battle

For example, there is the incident involving the stamp his mother had been saving. Yes, she should have taken it out of the stamp box which they both use and put it in a safe place. However, Ralph admitted—to me, at least—that he noticed the stamp was off to one side and wondered if it was there for a reason. Instead of simply asking his mother about it, or using another stamp, he selected that specific one.

In other words, you can prevent some problems from arising by using common sense and/or asking questions, if you have any doubt about a specific action.

Another mistake my friend Ralph made was meeting his mother's display of temper with one of his own. Fighting fire with fire may work in controlling a hillside brush blaze, but it is of no value whatever in personal relationships. Although his mother may still have been upset about his use of the stamp, she would have reacted much differently if Ralph had immediately apologized for using her stamp. Too, a major confrontation could have been avoided.

The argument which followed, like most disputes between par-

cnts and teenagers, was not really about the stamp at all. It became a power struggle, with Ralph's mother insisting that he become the obedient child and Ralph refusing to play the role.

The Bible is an amazing book in many ways. In Romans 12:17-20 Paul tells us how to handle an enemy. If this demonstration of love and concern can work with an enemy, think how effectively it can work with a parent or friend!

Try being kind and loving; agree that you were perhaps wrong; whatever it was that created the problem, promise not to do it again; show genuine concern for the other person's inconvenience.

One of the most important things to learn—if you are sincere about improving your relationship with your parents, or anyonc else who seems to irritate you—is the secret of silence. I call it "a secret," because so few people seem to know about it, judging from conversations I inadvertently hear on a regular basis.

In Ralph's case there have been literally hundreds of times when his life would have remained much calmer and his world would have been a better place if he had only discovered the secret of silence.

What is the secret of silence? Just keeping your mouth shut when the words ready to spill out are inappropriate and unnecessary and may hurt the other person.

"But I need to express myself!" you may claim.

True, but there is a time and a place for that, and it isn't while you are still angry. If you can't trust yourself to be in the same room with the other person without making a snide remark or two, excuse yourself and go for a walk, or take a shower. It doesn't matter what you do, just so you

keep quiet until you are in control again.

You may feel a certain amount of satisfaction when you "tell somebody off," but this is usually short-lived if you're a Christian, and then come the guilt feelings. In Ralph's case the pain of guilt is often much greater than the temporary satisfaction of retaliation, but somehow he doesn't seem to remember this—until it is too late.

As far as I'm concerned, Satan's greatest tool is not drugs, liquor, gambling, or pornographic movies. These things are insignificant when compared to the human tongue, and especially the tongue of a Christian whose life, supposedly, is dedicated to the Lord—that is, until something goes wrong.

To keep quiet when you're being accused of something isn't easy—especially when that something doesn't amount to anything, such as that special stamp Ralph's mother was saving. However, if you make it a private project all your own, you *can* do it. Determine to use your words for God's glory.

I'll tell you something else: not only will you defeat one influence Satan has in your life, but your sense of accomplishment and lack of guilt will make it well worth the effort.

Naturally the "secret of silence" isn't appropriate all the time, and no one is suggesting that you give up talking altogether. However, knowing when to speak and when to keep quiet is part of what growing into a mature Christian is all about. Unfortunately, there's a big difference between being an *old* Christian and a *mature* Christian!

Try the secret of silence around your house. It has worked for me in the past; it's working for Ralph, when he remembers to use it; and it just might work for you, too.

## CHRISTIANITY UERSUS CULTURE

#### BY ANNETTE HALE

ome nations are now refusing to allow missionaries into their countries, charging Christianity is destroying their culture. According to outspoken anthropologists and historians, this change to Western life-styles is detrimental to the special culture of certain tribes whose lifestyles should be preserved. However, Christianity does not destroy culture, as some assume. Although changes do occur whenever people accept Christ as their personal Savior, society as a whole is not dramatically altered.

The writer of Hebrews answered the charge that Christianity was destroying Jewish culture by showing how Christ fulfilled the central elements of Jewish beliefs—such as the priests, the sacrifices, and the tabernacle. God's purpose in these was to prepare the Jews to recognize Jesus as Messiah.

In the same way, other cultures have built-in analogies that can be discerned. The redeemed individual becomes aware of spiritual meaning within his own culture. Conversion does not cause disorientation by denying cultural background, but heightens insight into both human setting and Scriptures, enabling the person to share Christ in a meaningful way with others of the same social group.

Don Richardson, missionary and author, discusses in his writings how tribal cultures relate to Christianity.

For example, the *Damal* people of Irian Jaya in Indonesia, a Stone Age tribe of less than a generation ago, lived under the more powerful Dani people. The Damal hoped for a hai—an anticipated golden age in which wars would cease, sickness would disappear, and men would live in love. Missionaries recognized this as an analogy to Christ's redemptive plan and pointed this out to the tribe. Almost the entire population became receptive to the gospel. When the Dani warlords inquired about the change, they recognized a similar analogy to their belief in a future immortality for mankind, which they called nabelan-kabelan. By understanding that Jesus rose from the dead, they too were receptive to the Christian message of hope.

The concept of "rebirth" was as difficult for the Indonesian Amat tribe as it was for Nicodemus. However, missionaries used an ancient ritual of peacemaking to explain the New Birth. Representatives from warring tribes passed through a symbolic birth canal formed by two lines of men and women from both tribes. These representatives then served as living peace bonds between the two villages, for they were considered *reborn* into the family of their enemy. Treated

like newborn infants, they were the center of a joyous celebration. Thus the concept that true peace can only come from a spiritual rebirth was easily accepted. (See Moody Monthly, June, 1976.)

Mr. Richardson, in his book, *Peace Child*, states that the Sawi of the New Guinea demand that a peace child be offered to insure continuous peace between warring tribes. This child is given to the other tribe as an offering of goodwill. As long as the peace child lives, the two tribes are friendly, but war breaks out when the peace child dies. By showing that Jesus is the eternal "peace child," missionaries are able to bring the message of salvation to the Sawi.

The concepts of hai, nabelankabelan, rebirth, and peace child form the heart of these tribal cultures. When these tribal lifestyles are obliterated, something dies within the people; for discarded beliefs must be replaced by other beliefs as motivating as the previous ones. Since the gospel of Jesus Christ preserves most of these tribal distinctives, converts become resistant to the anathy that occurs with cultural change. While it is true that change occurs with the profession of Christ as a personal Savior, the charge that Christianity has to destroy basic cultural beliefs is unfounded and exaggerated. Christianity bears a message of hope, not despair.

### **YOUTH AT THE ASSEMBLY**

Youth from throughout the Church of God converge on the General Assembly. They expect excitement, good times, worship, and guidance— and they are not disappointed. The Assembly offers an action-packed week, and youth like it.

If you as a young person have never attended a General Assembly, you have missed a great deal. Youth programs, contests, and worship times throughout the sessions are geared to young people. Outstanding youth ministers of our church lead the meetings in song, music, and sermon as the youth gather in an auditorium designated especially for young people.

Youth make important decisions at the Assembly. Commitments to Christ are reinforced, new fields of service are discovered, and generally, the spiritual horizon of youth is broadened. In the mass meetings where dedicated youths are singing or ministering, other youths, displeased with their stand with Christ, make a deeper consecration to the Lord.

Also, the Assembly is fun-time. Visiting with friends, walking over town, window-shopping—this too, is part of the Assembly. Youth date at the Assembly, and the courtships sometimes blossom into lasting romances.

Church of God youth are not as carefree at the Assembly as they may appear. Beneath their facade there is a genuine sincerity. They are vitally interested in what is passed in business sessions. The measures deal with their church, a church which they will work in and lead within a few years. Therefore, they are interested in decisions made there.

Yes, the Assembly offers great experiences. I hope you can attend the one in 1978.

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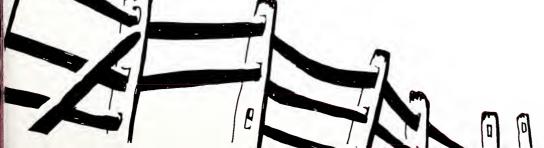
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Just suppose for a moment that Christ has not been born...

A poor man and his wife, who is with child, are at your door.

Where will they sleep tonight?



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ary of Nazareth was young, probably in her middle teens, when she became engaged to Joseph. In stories and in pictures, Joseph is shown as being much older than Mary. He would, of course, have finished his apprenticeship as a earpenter or he would not have been able to support a wife.

Nazareth was a small village and no doubt the two families were well acquainted. When an agreement was reached between them, the betrothal took place.

In those days a betrothal was much more than a present-day engagement. According to Jewish law, it was as binding as marriage. Under a canopy, erected in the home of the bride, the ecremony took place with great rejoicing. To make it legal the bridegroom gave his betrothed a piece of money before witnesses. The ceremony was called "making sacred."

Marriage in Galilee usually took place a year after the engagement. The time between was spent in preparing a home.

The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary must have taken place soon after her betrothal. Gabriel told her that she would bear a son, and that she should eall His name Jesus. He also told her that He should be ealled the Son of God. (See Luke 1:31, 35.)

Imagine Mary's feelings at this dramatie announcement! eoming of the Messiah was the greatest hope of the entire lewish nation. It may have been that Mary understood that someday a Iewish maiden would become the mother of the Son of God. She was probably gentle and reverent by nature. She had learned in ehildhood to obey God's eommandments. Humbly, she said to Gabriel, "Behold [I am] the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:33).

During Gabriel's visit he told

## When Christmas Came Into

Mary about another miracle. Her cousin Elizabeth, who had never had any children, was going to have a son in her old age. Mary wanted to go to her. She knew Elizabeth would understand the great miracle that had come to her.

Elizabeth lived in the hill country of Judea, a long way from Nazareth. We are not told how Mary made the journey, but we are told that both women had great joy when they met. Elizabeth knew at once that Mary was carrying the Messiah, and she wondered why she had been so blessed that the mother of her Lord should visit her (see Luke 1:43).

The two cousins enjoyed a long visit, until almost time for the birth of Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist.

When Mary returned to Nazareth, Joseph felt certain that she had been unfaithful to him. While he loved Mary dearly, he was a strict observer of the law. Jewish law allowed a betrothal to be broken either by a public trial or by a private agreement in which a paper was signed before witnesses. For Mary's sake, Joseph decided to break the engagement as quietly as possible.

One night, during this time of great distress, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary, for she was to become the mother of the Son of God, the Messiah. And the angel added, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

the World

What joy Joseph must have felt when he knew that the one he loved most was to become the mother of the Messiah. He also must have been awed by the sacred charge given to him. He was to be the earthly father of the Messiah. Joseph obeyed the angel of the Lord and took Mary as his wife.

Many years before this time, the prophet Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Nazareth was about ninety miles north of Bethlehem.

In faraway Rome, the emperor decided that this was the year "that all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1). It was necessary that each family go to the home of their ancestors to be enrolled for the taxing. Bethlehem was the ancestral home of both Mary and Joseph.

And so they made the long, hard journey to Bethlehem. Paintings usually show Mary riding a donkey and Joseph walking beside the animal. A donkey was all the transportation that poor peo-



ple could afford. Only the rich rode swift camels.

Ten miles was about as far as they could travel in one day. And they stopped at night wherever they could find lodging. Where there were no villages, khans were built for travelers. These offered walls with a roof overhead, water from a well, and a place to tie animals. Perhaps many nights they slept under the stars.

When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, they looked for a place to rest. The only lodging they could find was a stable. The Bible describes beautifully the event that took place there. "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

At the moment Jesus was born, Christmas came into the world.



he poster blazed with psychedelic colors. The sheer beauty of it arrested Abigail, and she stopped her shopping cart to read it. REWARD FOR BEAUTIFUL HANDS—\$1,000 will be awarded to the winner of our contest to find the fairest hands in the land. See store manager for details.

Abigail really needed the money. She barely had enough to buy the groeeries from week to week and to have some left over to support her habit. The thought of her habit eaused her to look at the yellow-stained fingers of her left hand. No amount of serubbing, no lotion—nothing could beautify her hands. The prize money would never be hers.

Bratton caught his breath. He had glimpsed Phyllis entering the library and everything else was forgotten. He watched with averted eyes as she paused briefly at the librarian's desk. Then she headed directly for the table where Bratton was sitting. With

## A Harmless Habit?

a quiek motion, he buried his head in the book before him. He suddenly realized the only vacant chair in the room was the one next to him.

Phyllis glanced at Bratton and smiled eoyly as she took her seat. She had noticed Bratton's actions and had decided to be responsive to his overtures, if he made any. Within a moment, she appeared immersed in study, but actually she was awaiting Bratton's first move. It soon eame.

"Hi," he whispered, leaning close to Phyllis.

She turned to regard him with friendly eyes and a smile hovering on her lips.

"My name's Bratton. What's yours?" He praetically blew the words at her.

Phyllis resumed her studying, this time in earnest, without answering. Bratton's breath was foul and unpleasant.

The spring tryouts for the football team separated the men from the boys as Coach Anderson put it. The first test was a wind sprint of fifty yards—"to see if you have lungs," according to the eoach.

Damon wanted to play so badly he could taste it, almost literally. He sucked fervently on the lozenge in his mouth, hoping it would suppress the coughing he had developed lately. At Coach Anderson's instruction, he joined twenty-three other candidates and crouched in a line. When Coach Anderson yelled, "Go!" Damon charged forward at top speed. His initial burst propelled him into the lead. Measuring his breath, he strained to keep his pace. But breathe he must, and within thirty yards he gasped for air. The effort threw him into a spasm of coughing, bringing him to a stumbling stop, unable to run.

Still gasping, he trudged glumly to the sidelines to be greeted by Coaeh Anderson. "Sorry, Damon. I understand your problem. There's no need for you to

Franklin Conn, a frequent contributor to the Lighted Pathway, is pastor of the Fourth Avenue Church of God in La Grange, Georgia.

#### BY FRANKLIN CONN

go on. There's no way for you to make the team. You can try again later, when you kick your habit."

A tiny tear sneaked down Damon's cheek. It was his own fault; he could only blame himself for not making the team.

"I don't believe it!" Louisa exploded in a mixture of anger and fear.

Dr. Enfield felt genuine pity for Louisa. No onc, especially a thirty-four-year-old woman, wants to hear that her gangrenous right leg must be amputated.

"I won't let you do it," Louisa moaned as she rolled from side to side in the hospital bed.

"If you won't, then you will die, Louisa."

Louisa thought of her sixteen-year-old son, Alex; and of her twins, Bart and Barbara, only thirteen—just beginning their teen years. Her children needed a whole mother—not a cripple. And what about her husband, Marvin; how would he cope with a onclegged wife?

Her anguish poured out. "No, no no. Why, doc-

tor, why? How could this happen to me?"

Dr. Enfield tried to comfort Louisa. "If I had caught the problem in time, it's possible that I could have saved the leg. I'm not sure about that now. What I do know is that the only possible cause of your condition is the extensive damage to your circulatory system. That, I believe, was caused by your lifelong addiction which robbed your extremities of necessary oxygen. At any rate, if we don't amputate, the gangrene will spread and you will surely die."

With that, Dr. Enfield held the release form for the operation in front of Louisa. With trembling hands, she took it, read it, and signed it. Her life

would never be the same.

Vernon peered through the haze before his eyes. Dimly he could make out the encircling figures.

There was Sophia, his marriage partner from youth. He could not see her tear-streaked cheeks. Slowly, with great effort, he discerned Hanson, his oldest child, who was holding a baby. The baby was Vernon's first grandchild, and he carried the name Vernon for his grandfather. Yes, and there was Madelyn, Hanson's wife; and standing beside her was Will and Flo, Vernon's other children.

Though he loved his family, the strain of looking at them exhausted Vernon. His doctor had warned him for years about the danger of a heart attack and a need for Vernon to change his habits. But Vernon was his own man. He would change none of his ways, not even if it was a matter of life or death. Finally one day, in less than ten minutes, a coronary devastated the strong-willed Vernon. By the time he arrived at the hospital, it was too late to save him.

Fortunately, he felt no pain, due to powerful drugs. Now there was only a vague sensation of sinking as the haze before him deepened. A cold dread slipped over Vernon. He had never been a religious man; he had left that to Sophia and the children. But now, in a rush, he understood how wrong he had been. He was facing something he could not control, and he was frightened. With the scant breath he had left, he sighed, "Jesus, forgive me."

Using the last remnant of strength, he lifted a hand in gratitude for a sudden, total peace. His family, seeing him move, hovered over him; but the hand fell back to his side. His heart had stopped. Vernon was dead.

Abigail, Bratton, Damon, Louisa, and Vernon shared something in common: the smoking habit. They all agreed it was not harmless. (That is, all except Vernon—he isn't talking!)

What do you think?

## PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE



#### BY NINA WALTER

hy do so many marriages fail?" the student asked her counselor. "When I see what has happened to some of my friends, I am almost afraid to get involved."

"What has happened to your friends?" the counselor asked.

The young woman sighed. "They fell madly in love and got married. Then they started to fight and they broke up. Now they are both bitter. If there is a baby, he will grow up feeling rejected. Why does marriage have to end like that?"

"It doesn't," the counselor assured her. "There are many reasons for the failure of a marriage. Would you like for me to venture an educated guess about the one you described?"

"Yes, I would. And it isn't just one. It seems to be an epidemic. The younger they are, the quicker

they break up."

The counselor nodded. "That figures," he said. "I believe that most marriage failures are caused by ignorance and immaturity. In addition, if either of the partners has a neurotic approach to life, the marriage hasn't much chance for survival. A grown-up baby is not likely to be a good partner on the voyage of matrimony. He or she will certainly rock the boat. Two grown-up babies can sink the ship before it gets out of the harbor."

"I know. Some of my friends certainly have acted childishly. What brought it out? How can I prevent it from happening to me?"

"Prepare for marriage," the

counselor advised. "Falling madly in love is not sufficient basis for choosing a marriage partner. Often it is just an adolescent romantic notion based on a biological urge."

"How should one prepare?"

"Bcgin by choosing your friends wisely; avoid those who are immature, maladjusted in school and society, and lacking in moral integrity. Know what you expect of a marriage partner and what you are willing to give. Talk things over. If you disagree on important issues before marriage, you are not likely to make working compromises afterwards."

Let us hope that the student profited from her counselor's advice. Young people should prepare for marriage as they do for careers.

First of all, they should understand the responsibilities of marriage and be willing to accept them. A man who is afraid of responsibility is not ready for the role of husband and father. A woman who is afraid of responsibility will be a burden to her husband rather than a helpmate.

Once they understand and are willing to accept the responsibilities of marriage, they should work at making good marriage partners of themselves. After evaluating and eliminating their own areas of infantilism, they should try to develop in themselves attitudes of acceptance, of tolerance, of helpfulness, and of willingness to adapt to changing circumstances. They should discard bigotry, willfulness, and the desire to dominate others.

Both husband and wife have to work at making a marriage successful. Marital problems can be solved if both are willing and are mature enough to make the attempt to solve them on a logical, reasonable, mature basis rather than on an adolescent, emotional level.

The desire to succeed in marriage is not enough. The marriage partners must know how to succeed.

Society expects a woman to learn about housekeeping, cooking, caring for children, and husband-keeping. Schoolgirls will find that courses in home economics and child study will help them to learn these things. They should also take the kinds of psychology courses that deal with personality evaluation and development.

The potential husband needs to develop a sense of responsibility, pride in home and children, a willingness to share, and a desire to provide as well as to acquire adequate training to provide for a family. He needs to learn how to be a real family leader—one whom his wife and children will be proud to follow. As a beginning, he should add to his engineering courses or other career training a course in personality development, as well as courses in child psychology and "wife psychology.

If young people contemplating marriage will consciously prepare themselves to be good marriage partners, they can form satisfying and lasting relationships.

## SENDING CHRISTMAS If the Lord convicts you to sen

BY HELEN CALWAY

re you one of those Christians who is afraid to send a religious card at Christmas? I don't mean to your good Christian friends; I mean to your non-Christian friends—the ones you know that don't consider God. Don't pass lightly over this or laugh. It is far too true in so many cases.

What kind of card do you send? Is it one of fervent religious worship heralding the birth of Christ? one witnessing the true meaning of Christmas? one with just "Merry Christmas," which is as far as the sentiment goes? one with a Christmas tree, holly, or snow, representing the cold Christmas season? one with "Holiday Greetings" or "Season's Greetings," which could mean almost anything? There are many varieties. Which do you choose?

If the Lord convicts you to send a religious card, a card glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ in every way, why not send this same card to everyone you know?

I've heard people state: "But he's not a Christian." Or, "He's Jewish. He doesn't celebrate Christmas." Or, "He wouldn't appreciate a religious card." At such times I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

Christmas is a celebration of a spiritual nature. God became man on earth. We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

What else is Christmas, but this? Are you ashamed of this great truth? Are you afraid?

Don't say no too fast. Examine your own heart. You care about what people think about you. You worry that others may feel that you are a fanatic. So, you send a nice Christian Christmas card to your Christian friends and then completely exclude Christ from your other Christmas greetings. Right?

I would consider it far more important to send my non-Christian friends the message of Christmas than I would the bornagain Christians who are standing fast in the faith. What an opportunity to witness for the Lord! What an opportunity to open the door for someone to remark about the true meaning of Christmas! What a time to plant the thought picture of the Lord in a non-Christian eye!

Some of your Muslim, Jewish, or atheistic friends may be insulted, angered, annoyed, or furious at a card that mentions

Christ or Christmas. They may even tear up the card and furiously exclaim that they do not believe in Jesus Christ, but they will have a reaction. They will notice Christ. They may reject Him, but they can't ignore the fact that Jesus Christ is real to you.

Take courage. Stand on the strength of your convictions. Perhaps someone may not talk to you again, but the Lord says in Matthew 5:10, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

Perhaps the religious significance of your Christmas card may be lost in the flood of Christmas mail. There is also a possibility, however, that your Christmas card will impress on the mind of a lonely, uncertain soul, the great love of God for mankind. Perhaps that soul will realize that you are a Christian—not just any Christian, but a solid Christian, strong in your faith.

What a joy it would be if this little piece of paper opened the door for you to witness! You would not even have to approach the subject; the card would open the door. A seemingly innocent question could be asked you one day from the soul-searching depths of an interested, serious individual, all because you sent an appropriate Christmas card.

Try it. If you choose one card for everyone, pray before you choose the card, and you will receive the Lord's guidance. Show all your friends and acquaintances that you are a Christian and that you're not ashamed of it.



James Johnson serves as choir director of the South Rocky Mount (North Carolina) Church of God.



By Floyd D. Carey, General Director of Youth and Christian Education

#### MY DESIRE IS TO BE A CHILD EVANGELIST

Over six thousand young people auditioned for the New Mickey Mouse Club. Professional youth actors with agents were there, but Tim was at the top. He has just returned from guest starring in the first live telecasting of the New Mouskateers. After he performed, he was asked what he would do later in life; before hundreds of people and on TV he said, "My desire is to be a child evangelist." Praise the Lord for dedicated young people like Tim Syverson of Portland, Oregon. Tim was also the state winner in the vocal solo and instrumental solo category of our Teen Talent program.

—Ron O. Lewis Oregon state youth director

#### THE BUSES GO TO CAMP

It was youth camp in autumn for the Gravois Street Church of God in St. Louis, Missouri. Many of the young people who are a part of the tremendous bus ministry of the Gravois Street Church were not able to attend the regular state youth camps. So provisions were made by local church leaders to have their own camp. A total of 147 young people were bussed to the state campground to enjoy a time of fun, recreation, and worship. The Reverend A. Roland Pendley, state youth and Christian education director, was invited to speak of the final evening service. At the con-clusion of his message, Brother Pendley invited those who wanted to receive Jesus to come forward. The response was overwhelming, os fiftyone young people come for salvotion. We thank God for Pastor A. M. Dorman and the capable leadership of this fine church for their vision which extends beyond the walls of the church building.

—A. Rolond Pendley

Missouri state youth director

#### SPS-A NEW FORMULA

A new formula—study, pray, ond share—(SPS)—forms o vital port of Family Training Hour at the West Danville Church of God in Virginia. February 14 marked the fourth anniversary of this youth group. SPS was organized as an outside youth activity of the church; but as attendonce and enthusiasm grew, class space became inadequate and SPS was invited to merge with Family Training Hour within the church.



SPS-Study, Pray, and Share

**Study:** "Study to shew thyself opproved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). SPS presents Bible study in such a unique way that young people find themselves growing deeper in the Word of God.

SPS uses for its textbook the Holy Bible, under the cosponsorship of one adult leader and one young adult. Scripture is read oloud and then comes olive through open discussion. Involvement mounts as members relate the Word to their own lives, problems, and church situations. God's Holy Word is the tie that binds this assembly of young people into a body that feels free to debate opposite views without contention and to seek help and answers to personal problems. Perhaps the key to the success of SPS is the freedom of expression without fear of mockery or criticism.

Class subjects thus far have included detailed studies of John's Gospel, Romans, and Revelation. Study categories such as Gifts of the Spirit, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and Church of God Teachings have led the class through a major portion of the New Testament. Tapes and records have also served as special features. In a class with such a high level of excitement, one Bible chapter or a particular subject may continue under discussion for weeks, as the Holy Ghost directs.



**Pray:** "Pray one for another" (James 5:16). With reverence and compassion, prayer requests are made known at the beginning of each SPS session. The members bring their problems from home, job, schoolwhatever and wherever they may be, both spiritual and material. At times, a great spirit of prayer has overtaken the class as God moved upon the members. Some have been saved, some sanctified and some filled with the Holy Ghost during SPS sessions. That God really meets with this youth group is evident by the many times He has honored their faith and answered their prayers. His presence has been manifested also in healings, Holy Ghost messages, and through a genuine revival spirit.

**Share:** "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee" (Mark 5:19). This portion of SPS includes the sharing of personal testimonies, needs, problems, and experiences. We share joys and sorrows alike, heartaches and victories, but most of all we share in the giving of ourselves to each other.

Several other SPS's have been organized across the state as they heard the good news of West Danville.

---Jo Ann Walker FTH Vice-President West Danville, Virginia

### AN OUTSTANDING SENIOR IN MINNESOTA

Allen Brown is no ordinary young man. Raised in the cold country, where snowdrifts of six feet are not uncommon, Allen and his three brothers—Steve, Bill, and Mike—earn their spending money by trapping small game throughout the winter. This past year, they paid their way to the General Assembly by trapping game, chopping firewood, and washing cars. These dedicated young men were the first teens to ever represent Minnesota in Teen Talent competition.

Allen has won many honors in his school and the state by playing football. As a junior, he made the first string, all-conference team in Minnesota. Several top universities are presently trying to enlist him in their football ranks. Yet, Allen is seeking God's will for his life. These activities don't stop him from living a dedicated Christian life in front of all who know him. Minnesota is proud of her young people and we say, "Praise God for young men like Allen Brown."

—B. Randall Hamon

Minnesota state youth director

### BIBLE HISTORY STUDENT OF THE YEAR

James Edward Parris, Jr., a dedicated Church of God youth, recently graduated from William M. Raines Senior High School, Jacksonville, Florida. James Parris received two awards for his academic achievement: "Bible History Student of the Year" and "Who's Who in American High School Students." He was also an honor student: Out of a class of 420 seniors. he was listed in the top ten. Spiritually committed to soulwinning, James was instrumental in starting the Creative Witness Club and in presenting the play entitled "One Day Too Late." This play has been presented in various Jacksonville churches and has been aired on television, with good spiritual results.

He is presently attending the University of Florida, where he is majoring in architecture and minoring in religion. His goal is to "first serve God, then mankind."

—Quan L. Miller Florida state youth director (Jacksonville)



#### PROJECT SPLASH ACCOMPLISHED!

In the fall of 1975, the state director of Illinois, Junus C. Fulbright, and the Illinois State Youth Board formulated a plan to finance the construction of a swimming pool and bathhouse facilities for the campground. The plan, which challenged the youth to raise the needed funds, was called Project SPLASH, Response was the greatest that Illinois youth have ever demonstrated. They raised \$17,455.97. Eighty-two percent of the churches participated. In addition, the Illinois State Youth Department contributed \$2,544. Thus, the goal of \$20,000 was accomplished, and the facilities were available for splishsplashing during youth camp, plus 105 youth were baptized in water.

—Junus C. Fulbright
Illinois state youth director

#### FAMILY LIFE SEMINARS

Church of God teenagers are invited to attend one of the twelve regional Family Life Seminars that will be conducted in January, February, and March. The seminars will be conducted at the following locations:

Knoxville, Tennessee January 8, 1977

Lawrenceville, Georgia January 15, 1977

Ontario, California January 22, 1977

Lakeland, Florida January 29, 1977

Anderson, South Carolina February 5, 1977

> Sumiton, Alabama February 12, 1977

Louisville, Kentucky February 19, 1977

Charlotte, North Carolina February 26, 1977

> Riverview, Michigan March 5, 1977

Norfolk, Virginia March 12, 1977

Dallas, Texas March 19, 1977

Yakima, Washington March 26, 1977

The theme of the seminars will be "A Touch of Heaven—the Christian Home." All of the seminars will be conducted on Saturday from 10 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon. A special workbook will be prepared for each delegate and the program will include study sessions, interaction, practical helps, and visuals. Teenager, check the dates above and make definite plans to be a part of the Family Life Seminar program in your area.

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y husband is often invited to speak at various churches. The Reverend Marshall Roberson asked him to speak one weekend to his congregation at the North Chattanooga (Tennessee) Church of God.

When I have the privilege to go with him, often before the message, I am asked to sing. While sitting in the service on Sunday evening, I was asking the Lord to give me something to say that would be a blessing to the people.

It seemed that the Lord gave me the following inspiration:

If someone should ask me, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" how would I respond?

I would say, "Yes, I have met Him. I know Him personally. I know Him intimately."

Then it seemed that a flood of questions and responses came to my mind. I knew that the Lord had given me this inspiration and I shared it with the congregation along with the following thoughts:

Should someone say, "Then tell me more about Him. What color are His eyes?"

I would answer, "I do not know what color His eyes are, but I do know that they are filled with compassion."

Question: What is the shape of His ears?

Response: I do not know the shape of His ears, but I do know that His ears are not heavy that He cannot hear (see Isaiah 59:1), for I know that He answers my prayers.

Question: Does He have the hands of an artist?

Response: I do not know what His hands look like, but I do know that there are nail prints in them; and they are so strong that they lifted me up out of the horrible pit (when I could not help myself) and placed me upon the Solid Rock.

Question: Does He smile a lot? Response: I have never seen Him smile, but He gives me one.

Question: Does He have a beautiful voice for singing?

Response: I have never heard Him sing a song, but He puts a song in my heart—even in the midnight hours.

On the way home that night my husband, Eddie, our ten-yearold daughter, Marsena, and I were discussing the service and were expressing our thanks for God's wonderful presence that we had felt.

"Mother," said Marsena, "there is something else you could have added to your testimony."

I asked, "What is it, Marsena?" And she said, "You could have asked the question, 'What are His feet like?'"

"Then what would my answer have been?" I asked.

To my amazement she replied, "You could have said, 'I do not know what His feet look like, but I do know that they never grow weary; and they are strong enough to walk with me every step of the way."

Then we thought of other beautiful ways to contrast how lovingly our wonderful Lord makes Himself so very real to us.

In the future if anyone should ever ask me the question, "How tall is He?" my answer will be, "I do not know how tall He is, for I have never seen Him in bodily form. But I do know that He is altogether lovely. And He stands tall enough to forgive, because He took my sins at Calvary. No man stands taller."

If anyone should ask you the question, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" what would your answer be?

# HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION?

BY IRMA WILLIAMS

Irma Williams, a copy editor
at the Church of God
Publishing House, is an
unusually gifted worker with
youth. She and her husband,
Dr. Edward L. Williams who
is a professor at Lee College,
participate in many local
church activities.



The Reverend and Mrs. Denzell Teague. He is superintendent of the Church of God Indian Ministries. S.W.

# INDIAN YOUTHS IN ACTION

BY ELIZABETH TEAGUE

ceently, students from the Indian Bible Institute (IBI) in Gallup, New Mexico, visited several churches.

The Reverend Paul Bright, pastor in Coolidge, Arizona, his wife and some of their members traveled with the thirteen people from the school. Although we knew the Church of God was

having a fellowship meeting, we had no map or written directions as to how to find the church. After traveling north toward the Colorado border for a long while, we realized that we were almost out of gas and the chances of obtaining any were diminishing. We prayed and believed God would provide so that the car could keep moving.

Later we turned on to a road leading to a trading post in order to ask directions. When we found there was a gas pump in front of the trading post, we began to praise God for the opportunity to buy gasoline. Inside we exchanged conversation with some Indians from that area and found that they too were on their way to the fellowship meeting. It was a blessing to have someone take us right to the church steps.

At the meeting we had a wonderful time of singing and praising God and hearing His Word. Although those who could not speak or understand the Navajo language missed a lot of what was said, the Spirit of the Lord was there.

The meeting continued throughout the day, with a break for lunch. That night we were scheduled for a service in Bloomfield, New Mexico, with the Reverend Lanis Bright. We arrived just in time for the service to begin. The choir from the Bible school sang, and the people were blessed by their ministry. The Reverend John Martinson, a teacher at the school, preached a great sermon.

At the elose of the service, after enjoying spiritual food all day, we feasted on natural food prepared by the pastor's wife. Brother Bright and his kind members provided bcds for all. We found out the next morning that Brother and Sister Bright had slept on the floor so that others could sleep on their bcd. What Christian love!

On Sunday morning, we had a service in Water-flow, New Mexico, at one of the older Indian churches. The Sunday school lesson was presented in English by the pastor's wife, and was translated into Navajo by the pastor, Brother Harrison. The IBI choir sang, and the inspiring worship service ended at two in the afternoon. After Brother Teague explained the financial reporting system of the Church of God to the pastor and his wife, we rushed on.

Eleven miles from the location of the night service is a very rare spot in the United States where four states meet. The view of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico was beautiful. A feeling of serenity prepared our hearts for the evening service.



Emphasis is put upon the importance of students digging out facts for themselves.



Some of the students gather wood for a bonfire.



Students do research and also prepare their lessons in the library.

When we arrived at the church, we found a tiny building made of roughhewn slabs, covered with tar paper on the outside, and eeiled with cardboard. The only pieces of furniture were some crude benches, a pulpit, and a small altar. But God's presence was very real in that humble atmosphere as Indians and whites worshiped together. Such unity and love could never be surpassed. The service was led by a man who, before someone told him about the true love of God, had been on peyote (a stimulant drug), and had been deeply involved in false worship.

As we traveled back to Gallup on the small, narrow road, we noticed several police cars. Arriving at the main highway, we came to a roadblock. An Indian policeman interrogated us thoroughly. While talking with him, we could see the electronies factory across the street, and a red flag was waving from the top of the building. We realized that some sort of a revolt was taking place. Indians were standing on the roof with rifles pointing toward us and the road.

The policeman motioned for us to go on through the roadbloek but warned us to elose all windows and to keep moving. We were eautioned not to stop for anything until we reached Gallup. This kind of warning gave us an eerie feeling, but we went on in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Just one hour later we came to another roadblock outside of Gallup, and the policeman there asked us more questions. He informed us that about one hour earlier shots had been exchanged at the very spot where we had stopped at the first roadblock. We must have missed the fire by minutes! As we drove along the next half hour on the way to the mission compound, we praised God for His protection and care for us.

Reflecting upon the events of Sunday evening, we compared the war, strife, hatred, and bitterness displayed by this revolt with what we had experienced in that little tar-papered building only a few miles away. There the whites and the Indians had wonderful fellowship together, along with unity and love and understanding. In their testimonies the Indians had mentioned that they had feared the whites, but that all their fear had been removed by their trust in the God of love. How wonderful it is to bask in His love.

# The Lighted Pathwa Dear Brother Buxton, Blessing story with you.

Dear Brother Buxton:

Several years ago I had an experience relating to the Lighted Pathway that I would like to share with you.

While I was pastoring in Salem, Oregon, 1942-43, the church had a program in which Lighted Pathways and Evangels were distributed to the various convalescent homes and to state penitentiaries. During this particular time a prisoner was released from prison, and between the front door of the prison and state highway 99 (which was about a quarter of a mile), he fell dead.

When the officers searched the body, all they found was the address of the Church of God. which had been torn from the Church of God Lighted Pathway. While this may seem very insignificant, we at the Salem Church of God felt a degree of satisfaction in knowing that he had been exposed to good literature. We trust that he found God.

> -F. W. Goff, Publisher Church of God Publishing House

Because we hear too little from our readers and beeause we do not always know whether we are indeed communicating our inspirations, I must share this

Today Tim, a student in my Sunday school class, told me about going to see his new girl who lives at Dauphin Island. He had met Terry this past summer while spending some time at the island. He knew that her parents had, at one time, attended a Full Gospel church but that now they are not serving the Lord. Terry works on Sundays at a drive-in restaurant and doesn't attend ehureh either. This weekend Tim went to see Terry, and she showed him a picture she had drawn. The picture was of a large bird with outstretched wings, and on the wings were printed these words:

If you love something, set it free.

If it comes back, it is yours;

If it doesn't, it never was.

When Tim saw this drawing, he said, "Hey, you must have seen my tee shirt."

"Your tee shirt?" questioned Terry.

"Yeah, I've got a shirt with that on it. If you didn't see it, where did you get that idea?"

"I read it in a magazine," said Terry.

She then got the Lighted Pathway which Tim had not seen and showed him my article in the January Lighted Pathway entitled "Liberated but Obligated." In that article I had quoted the words which I had seen earlier on his shirt.

When Tim saw my by-line he said, "Hey, that's my Sunday school teacher." Then he remembered my commenting on his tee shirt months earlier. I was quite exeited when he told me this. Thank God that through the Lighted Pathway, our words and inspirations can go where we cannot go and can bring together writers and readers in startling ways.

It also thrilled me that a Sunday school scholar of mine had played a part in bringing about the in-

spiration of a drawing.

I know you've got more important things to do, so God bless!

> -Betty Spence Mobile, Alabama







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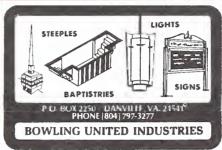
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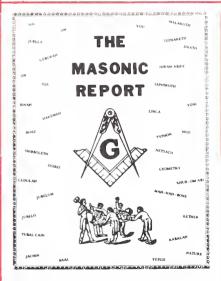
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BY CINDY WAINWRIGHT

# IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS

ed buttoned his jacket to the top as we left the church. "Winter's in the air, all right!" he

exclaimed.

"Yes, it certainly is," I agreed, shivering slightly as we hurried to the car.

"Can't believe Christmas is less than three weeks away," he continued. "I'm not half ready."

I swallowed. "Me, neither." But I meant it in a different way. The thought of Christmas without Daddy was almost more than I could bear. It wouldn't seem like Christmas with him gone.

He had died following a sudden heart attack on New Year's Day, eleven months ago, and I still had not adjusted fully to his absence. We were closer than most fathers and daughters, I guess; and occasionally I found myself glancing at the front door as the clock struck six, as if I expected him to appear at precisely that moment, just as he had done for so many years.

"Joanie?"

I looked up, startled. "What? Oh, I'm sorry, Ted. I didn't hear what you said."

"I thought choir practice went really well tonight," he repeated. "The Christmas program should be fantastic."

"Yes, I'm sure it will be," I replied.

"Joanie, is something wrong?"
I forced a smilc. "I'm cold,

that's all. Doesn't the heater work?"

"Takes a while to warm up," he explained. "Hey, how about driving around and looking at Christmas lights before I take you home? Some of the houses are really fixed up. I hear there's one over on Sycamore—"

"Not tonight, Tcd," I interrupted. "I'm a little tired."

The thought of Christmas lights brought back memories of years gone by. Our house was always the first on the block to be decorated; and Daddy spent hours on the project, placing every light in exactly the right position —for "ultimate effect," as he put it. The local paper usually came out and took a picture of it.

Of course Ted was new in town and couldn't have known how his simple suggestion hurt me. He only knew I lived alone with my mother and that our house was devoid of Christmas lights.

"Your place is the only dark one on the whole block," he observed when he dropped mc off.

"Mother and I aren't too adept

at crawling around on the roof," I replied. "Thanks for bringing me home, Ted."

"Hey, I'd be glad to put up the lights for you," he voluntcered. "Assuming that you have some to put up, I mean."

"We do," I admitted. "But I wouldn't want to impose—"

"Look, I wouldn't mind at all," he insisted.

"I'll have to check with my mother," I said. "Good night."

"Good night, Joanic. See you tomorrow."

The subject of putting up the Christmas lights hadn't been mentioned at our house. Mother and I both knew how we felt about it. They were Daddy's lights; if he wasn't there to put them up, they shouldn't go up. Anyway, it wouldn't be the same if someone clsc did it.

"Joanie, I'm glad you're home," Mother said as I entered the house. "I just had a call from Aunt Lois." "Aunt Lois?" I echoed. What was so unusual about a phone call from Aunt Lois? She called frequently. A feeling of dread encompassed me. Aunt Lois was married to Uncle Dan, my father's brother. He was just two years younger than Daddy. "Mom, is it about Uncle Dan? He isn't—"

"No, no; nothing like that," she told me quickly. "But it is about Uncle Dan. He won the 'Outstanding Salesman' award for this year, and the prize is a two-week, all-expenses-paid vacation in Hawaii!"

I stared at her, mouth open. "Hawaii! Wow! When are they going?"

"Right away," Mother replied. "And they want to leave Debbie with us."

Debbie and I were first cousins and she was nice enough, but we had never been close. She was three years younger and still in junior high. We just didn't have much in common, except our last name, of course.

"You mean they're going off and leave her at Christmas?" It didn't sound like Uncle Dan and Aunt Lois to me.

"No, they'll be back on the twenty-fourth," Mother said. "Debbie's in some production at school and doesn't want to miss it. Besides, the trip is for two. I told Lois it would be all right, even though—"

"Even though it isn't?" I fin-

"It isn't that I have anything against Debbie," Mother went on. "She's a sweet girl. It's just that right now—"

"I know," I interrupted. "I feel the same way. I was hoping we could get through Christmas with as little celebrating as possible. I didn't care if we even got a tree this year."

Mother looked away, but not before I saw her watery eyes. It made mine water, too, because I knew she missed Daddy as much as I did. Maybe more; or at least in a different way.

"But with Debbie here," she continued, "we'll have to fix up the house, bake Christmas cookies, and do all the other things she'll be expecting."

"Do we?" I asked. "I mean, why should we change our plans for her? After all, everyone celebrates Christmas in a different way."

"Yes, but Debbie has been here at Christmas before, Joanie," Mother reminded me. "She knows how things are supposed to be."

"But how can we pretend everything's the same when it isn't?" I wanted to know. "Debbie's not so young that she can't understand."

"No, Joanic," Mother announced firmly. "We're going to make this a joyous Christmas season for Debbie. I've even considered asking one of the neighbors to put up our lights outside."

"Mother, you can't be serious!" I protested.

"Yes, I am," she said. "I've been doing a lot of thinking since Lois called, and maybe we've been wrong in not decorating or planning anything special. It's still Christmas, after all."

"But Mother, it doesn't seem

right to—" My voice trailed off.

"I don't think your father would want us to mope around the house at Christmas," she told me quietly. "He would want the house to be full of music and laughter, just as it's always been at this time of year."

I had to admit that she was right. No one had been more full of life and the Christmas spirit than Daddy. "But he's gone!" I cried in spite of myself, tears spilling onto my cheeks.

"Yes, he is," Mother agreed, putting her arms around me. "But Christmas—and what it represents—is still with us, and always will be. You know that, don't you, Joanie?"

I nodded, ashamed of my tears, but unable to stop them.

"And you must also know that Uncle Dan, Aunt Lois, and Debbie have never shown much interest in spiritual things," she went on. "More than anything else, Daddy wanted his brother's family to find the same peace and security in Jesus that he had found."

I knew that was true, and there was no doubt in my mind that he was with Jesus right then, but I missed him so very much; and Christmas without Daddy would hardly seem like Christmas at all. Still, if Mother was willing to try, so would I. We had to show Debbie that Christ gave us strength when we needed it most.

Debbie arrived two nights later, but not before Mother and I had decorated the house in its usual holiday gaiety. Ted even

came over and put up the lights on the roof and around the windows. It looked just as it always did; well, almost.

"You're just in time to help cut out the Christmas cookies!" Mother announced as Debbie came through the door.

"I'd love to!" she exclaimed. There were hurried good-byes and then her parents were off to the airport—and Hawaii; and she was off to the kitchen—and cookies.

"Where is that reindeer-shaped cutter?" she asked. "It's my favorite."

Mother and I looked at each other. It had been Daddy's favorite, too, and we hadn't planned to use it this year.

"I'll get it," Mother said cheerfully.

For the next week, I threw myself into the job of entertaining Debbie. We went shopping together, caroled with the youth group, strung popcorn for the tree, addressed cards while Bing Crosby sang "White Christmas" in the background—everything.

It was hard a lot of the time, because so many things we did reminded me of Daddy, but I was determined to go through with it. Mother was holding up beautifully, at least on the outside.

I took Debbie to choir practice with me, and afterward Ted took us around to see the lights.

"Look at that house!" Debbie would sing out. "And that one! I love Christmas; it's so pretty."

"Yeah," Ted agreed. "And I don't think it's wrong for Christians to decorate their houses,

even if it has nothing to do with the real meaning of Christmas."

"What do you mean?" Debbie wanted to know.

I held my breath. What an opening!

"Well, some Christians feel that since Christmas is the birth-day of Jesus, all these other things—trees, lights, presents—are pagan and should be done away with," Ted explained.

"I disagree," Debbie replied.

"And so does the pastor at my church."

I stared at her. "Your church? Debbie—"

"I guess you didn't know," she told me. "I've started going to this little church near my house. It's really nice and I go a lot. Mom and Dad have come a few times, too, and are really interested. But anyway, my pastor says—"

She kept talking, but I wasn't really listening. Debbie, Uncle Dan, and Aunt Lois were attending church! It was almost too good to be true! I silently thanked God for answering Daddy's prayer of so long ago.

"Debbie, you had a phone call," Mother said when we entered the house later. "It was from Hawaii!"

"How are Mom and Dad?" she asked.

"Having a wonderful time," Mother replied. "They're staying until New Year's, and they want you to join them right away! Your program at school is tomorrow, then I'll take you straight to the airport!"

I thought Debbic was going to

faint. "Come on, I'll help you pack," I volunteered.

"Christmas in Hawaii," she said as I got her suitcase out of the closet. "I can't believe it!"

"It should be beautiful," I answered.

"But not like Christmas," she replied thoughtfully. "It's always warm over there, I think. I'll miss being here, Joanie. I always used to wonder what made your house so special at Christmas. I thought it was Uncle George, but now I know that it's Jesus."

"Yes, and you can celebrate His birthday anywhere—even in Hawaii!" I agreed.

The house was quiet when I returned from school the next day. Mother hadn't returned from the airport, and I was alone. I didn't feel alone, however.

Instinctively, I put on a record featuring Christmas carols. It was old and scratchy, but it had been Daddy's favorite. I loved it,

I was sitting on the floor, listening to the music and wrapping a present, when Mother came in. She paused in the doorway and smiled.

"I was hoping you'd play that record," she said.

"Is Debbie on her way?" I asked.

"Yes, I watched the takeoff. Joanie, I'm glad we decided to decorate the house and have a real Christmas, even if Daddy isn't here. It meant so much to Debbie."

I nodded. "It means a lot to me, too, Mom. More than I thought possible."

August 4, 1966

201 Glory Street
Church of God
Family Training Hour

#### Dear Jesus:

I am in great need of some material to build a Christian life. I want it to be like Yours, so give me the very best.

I am building my life on the Solid Rock so that it will have a strong foundation. My foundation will be made out of salvation. It must last me a lifetime, so make it strong. If You have the old-time religion, send that style, because I hear it is the best kind.

Next, send me some sanctification to make my life strong so that it will stand the trials of life.

Finally, my roof will be made from the wonderful Holy Ghost. Also, to keep my life in good shape, I will need some preaching, praying, shouting, fasting, faith, patience, kindness, and love. If there is anything else that I need, please send it to me.

I'll need a lot of holiness to pave a driveway straight to heaven.

My plans come from Your guidebook and road map—the Bible. I am sure that You will be pleased to come and live in me when my life is lived according to Your plan.

When You come to live in me, I won't need any lights, for You are a light to all the world. I won't need any water, because I will have a well of living water springing up within me.

Please rush this order. I want to start building right away.

Send me a blessing, Marshall Wayne Daniels

P.S. Thank You for paying for this material on Calvary.

When Marshall was fifteen years old, he wrote this article. His Family Training Hour (FTH) leader asked him to prepare the letter only a few minutes before he read it in FTH. He was in a fatal automobile accident in Florida on May 10, 1975.

# WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

### BY CATHERINE MANN

hristmas, like any other birthday, comes but once a year. Yet it is more than a one-day spectacular. Its shining expectancy warms the weeks and quickens the days long before the twenty-fifth of December. And its beautiful afterglow lingers far into the New Year.

What is the secret of Christmas magic that touches all of us, big or small, young or old, religious or not?

Altogether what is Christmas? It is a Christmas tree, proud and straight and green, or perhaps another color, swirled in angel's hair, veiling its colored lights like misty fog does a street lamp. Mysterious packages are piled high under its glistening branches.

Nearby a wood fire blazes, erackling in the bowl of the fireplace with flames leaping high, from dry-cut wood and embers falling red into the ashes. An old dog dozes on the hearthstone, his tired bones warmed by the heat-ed bricks.

Christmas is wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters shopping hurriedly, happily. At Christmas, moms and daughters are prettier than at any other time of the year. Their beauty comes from a glow within, reflecting the "cosmetics" of the spirit.

It is stranger meeting stranger on the street, pausing to smile and say, "Hello. Merry Christmas," as each rushes to finish Yuletide errands.

It is a cold north horizon with a band of deep gray bordering it. And it is cars in a long line, hurrying toward a Christmas-keeping place, with bright packagcs glimpsed through the back window.

It is the greeting of home visitors with the warmest handelasp of the year and the kiss that conveys love and concern beyond the touch of lips.

It is a time for rereading and retelling the old, yet ever-new, Christmas stories of Scrooge and Tiny Tim, of *The Littlest Angel*, and of the three wise men. Each generation gets to know these beloved characters at Christmastime.

As the holiday approaches, Christmas is a spiey fragrance, wafting out of a baking pan. On the day itself, it is the sight of a browned turkey on a platter, centering the table, dressed in its best cloth. And the sounds of "Oh," and "Ah," coming from hungry, expectant family faces, gathered round with a guest or two, who were once strangers but are now angels entertained unaware.

It is the shouts of mcrry children, tripping over your feet, holding up new toys and yelling, "Look what I got." For the very old, sitting next to the fireplace, it is the ccho of Christmascs past—when their children were small and young parenthood sat

lightly upon their then-strong shoulders.

For the middle-aged it is a time of remembering the older persons and trying to please the youngsters, by selecting the latest toys and gifts in this moonwalking era. For teens it is a time of parties, of church services; a time of Christmas carols, sung by joyful voices under windows on cold winter nights.

Christmas is the fresh, sharp scent of pine, tickling the nose; a laughing boy romantically grabbing a girl under the mistletoe. It is red holly berries with glossy green leaves, peeping out of wreaths.

More than anything else it is a time of thinking first of others, of reaching out with mind and heart and purse, of turning the inside out, of doing and being the best that you ever are on any day of the year.

Yes, Christmas is celebration—big, small, and different—in various lands. But most of all it is the same in feeling, loving, giving, opening up, bringing childshine to the eyes of us all.

Christmas is more than preparation by the hand; it is a quickening in the heart. It is a meeting anew with Him whose birthday we honor on Christmas Day. The imparting to ordinary earth persons of some of His Spirit, His caring, His love, His "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Who among us can look into the human heart and measure the miracles wrought by the coming of Christmas? Who can explain the wonder, the magic, the hope of this the greatest day of all the year?

Christmas is a time of delivering baskets to those who welcome them. It is a time of extending warmest greetings to friends, the family, and everyone. It is a time of opening up to the spirit of Christ's birthday—expanding, enriching, and enlarging one's life through this holy, happy day.

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE WORKDAY

The Student Association of IBC sponsors a workday in the summer of each year; at this time painting, repairing, and other small jobs are done. This year, August 2 was the day! Over thirty-five workers turned out; and gallons of paint, pails of soapy water, and quarts of wax were spread out over the halls and dorms. Barbecued hamburgers were served for lunch, and the time of fun and fellowship during the meals and coffee breaks was rewarding.

This year an additional job was undertaken by the association, and a new two-car garage was framed. Under the direction of the college president, Philip Siggelkow, and a graduate, Donald Ulrich, the walls were erected and the roof was put on before the workers began leaving for home.

By each one working together and sharing in the work load, the International Bible College buildings and grounds are kept in good condition. Hats off to the International Bible College Student Association!

-Robert Reesor







# FIVE WAYS TO HANDLE FRICTION

rad has a highly developed male ego. When he and one of his friends disagree, he makes it pretty plain he intends to come out the winner. He uses force to work his way out of conflict.

His best friend, Bob, erawls into a shell. Retreat is his way of avoiding friction.

His girl friend, Barbara, is a follower. Whatever Brad says goes; she always gives in! Barbara's best friend, Betty, thinks Barbara gives in too much.

Betty has a firm belief that she should meet the other person halfway. She's a fifty-fifty kind of girl.

Bill has eome up with the best way of all to handle eonfliets of all kinds. He establishes honest relationships with others, even though he is aware of the risks involved. He believes in the brotherly love the Bible talks about. He is big enough to be loving and sincere at the same time. He knows that Paul's method of "speaking the truth in love" really works (see Ephesians 4:15).

These five ways of handling eonfliets really fascinate me, and I hope they intrigue you, too. To keep them straight in my mind, I've lined up each reaction with a eertain animal. When I face a conflict, there are five ways I can choose to react—as a lion, a crab, a sheep, a horse, or a dog. Let's explore each reaction to see just what is involved when we opt for one of these methods.

The Lion. This animal is famous for his pride and arroganee—and for his roar. When he is threatened, he reaets violently. He makes plenty of noise. He's apt to be aggressive and overbearing. He uses force to get his own way and to get the best of his prey. And that's how a human lion reacts, too. In David Augsburger's remarkable book Caring Enough to Confront, he ealls this method of handling a conflict situation the "I win, you lose" stance.

The lion is out to win; he really eannot tolerate being a loser. So he exercises what he thinks is his (or her) right to be selfishly independent. He either says, or implies, "We'll do this my way or not at all." He isn't one to say, "No way"; instead he says, "My way or no way!" Obviously, this is not the Christian way to handle a conflict. This is not loving one's neighbor as oneself. Only the secular can settle for this kind of behavior.

The Crab. Think of a crab you may have seen while beachcombing, or perhaps while in a fish market. That bright orange color is a real cover-up. The tentacles are more revealing of the crab's true nature. When things go wrong, the crab will withdraw into its shell.

The human erab does the same

#### BY SHIRLEY M. DEVER

thing. He retreats. He refuses to communicate. Sometimes we call this kind of guy or girl the strong, silent type. He or she avoids conflicts at all costs. When a stormy situation is about to develop, the crab will hide.

Christian teens may resort to this method because they believe that by avoiding a bad situation, the problem will be solved. But nothing can be farther from the truth! Bob's mother has said, "When I nag, Bob withdraws. But I'm just like my son. When he gets after me, I withdraw." Both mother and son know only too well that nothing can be accomplished by this kind of interaction. In fact, they now have a broken relationship which cannot be mended until they confront one another and talk the whole thing out. No one who really wants to solve dilemmas will be able to settle for being a crab!

The Sheep. The Bible mentions this animal a lot. In your relationship to God, you are the follower; He is the leader. Jesus told Peter to "be a shepherd to my sheep" (John 21:16; Williams). This does not imply that Jesus' followers are to be sheep. If you are a true believer, you cannot follow an unbeliever.

It is your job to try to lead unbelievers to the Lord, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to His twelve disciples, "I am sending you out as sheep surrounded by wolves. So you must be sensible like serpents and guileless like doves" (Matthew 10:16; Williams). The kind of sheep Jesus mentioned must be strong,

not wishy-washy and willing to give in to worldly ways. The typical human sheep, when friction sets in, may say something like this to others: "I'll give in. I'll do what you say. I'll go where you go and do what you do. I'm willing to do almost anything to keep the peace between us."

We are to keep peace with others, but not at the expense of compromising our principles and basic beliefs. The sheep is a conformist, but the true Christian must often be a nonconformist who walks his own path and listens only to the Spirit within.

As Paul said, "Stop living in accordance with the customs of this world, but by the new ideals that mold your minds continue to transform yourselves" (R o m a n s 12:2; Williams). You cannot take the sheep approach in handling human conflicts if you wish to please God, for the worldly far outnumber God's children in this world.

The Horse. If you have ever ridden a horse, you know that you become awarc of a certain rhythm you share with your horse. As you bounce up and down on the saddle, you are aware of meeting the horse halfway. A horse type of person says to others in all dilemmas, "I'll meet you halfway. I'll go fifty-fifty. Let's go dutch treat." We must give the horse type some credit; at least he's willing to compromise. He's not one way.

David Augsburger acknowledges that compromise holds great merit in handling human relationships. He also states that "it

[compromise] calls for at least a partial sacrifice of deeply held views and goals which may cost all of us the loss of the best to reach the good of agreement." The true Christian cannot compromise with the rules he learns in his book of guidance, the Bible.

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord, you have surrendered your life to Him; you have promised to give Him your total self. If you always meet other people halfway, there are times when you may not please the Lord. It is important that you keep your priorities in order. If you do, you will always put the Lord first.

The Dog. Man's best friend has many godlike qualities. The dog is affectionate, intelligent, loyal, devoted, and unselfish. This is how you will be if you "speak the truth in love" as you deal with others. In short, you aim for honest relationships. You become honest and loving enough to clear up misunderstandings as they come along.

Not only honesty and love, but truth and trust are embodied in this method. The winning combination of truth and love heals broken relationships, helps you change when this is necessary, and lets you experience Christian growth.

If you have a dog, think of the loving and honest relationship you two share. Then try to duplicate this in your human relationships. Soon you'll see that, in the long run, these loving and honest relationships *do* work!

# FEAR

Fear is something all men must feel, and for me I wish to know why and who.

Should I fear man when the Creator of him walks with me?

Should I fear the sea when the Maker of it walks with me?

Should I fear the animals when the Creator of them walks with me?

Should I fear darkness of the night when He the Light of light walks with me?

Should I fear the high places when He who created them walks with me?

Should I fear the grave when the overcoming Victor of the grave walks with me?

Now I know; now I see. I should fear the One who walks with me!

-Mitchell Wilson

Mitchell is a 20-year-old youth who is a member of the Daisy (Tennessee) Church of God. Desk of the Editor



''Only God could have dreamed the Christmas story,'' stated John Bonnell. He has a good point, for where in all history or literature could we find an account so unique as the nativity of Christ?

Ever thrilling is the old, old story of the eighty-five mile trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem by Joseph, Mary, and the donkey; of faithful Joseph and virtuous Mary being turned away from the inn; of the manger with the animals around; of the shepherds and of the Infant.

The Baby was the focal point of that first Christmas. He should be the focal point of every Christmas, for He was born to be the Saviour of men and the Prince of Peace.

Though on that initial Christmas a Child was born that was to affect the entire world, few people knew of His birth or cared about His circumstances. So He was born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes while farm animals gazed upon the scene.

Baby Jesus lay before the shepherds in the manger. After seeing the holy Infant and probably worshipping Him, "...they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child" (Luke 2:17). Joyfully the shepherds told of the newborn Christ. Like them, we ought to be exuberant about Christ at Christmastime and throughout the year.

A sick little girl in a hospital whispered to her nurse, "Did you know 'bout Jesus bein' born?"

"Yes," replied the nurse, "I know. Sh-sh-sh. Don't talk any more."

'You did? I thought you looked as if you didn't, and I was goin' to tell you.''

"Why, how did I look?" asked the nurse.

''Oh, just like most o'folks --- kind o'glum. I shouldn't think you'd ever look glum, if you know about Jesus bein' born.''

And we shouldn't!

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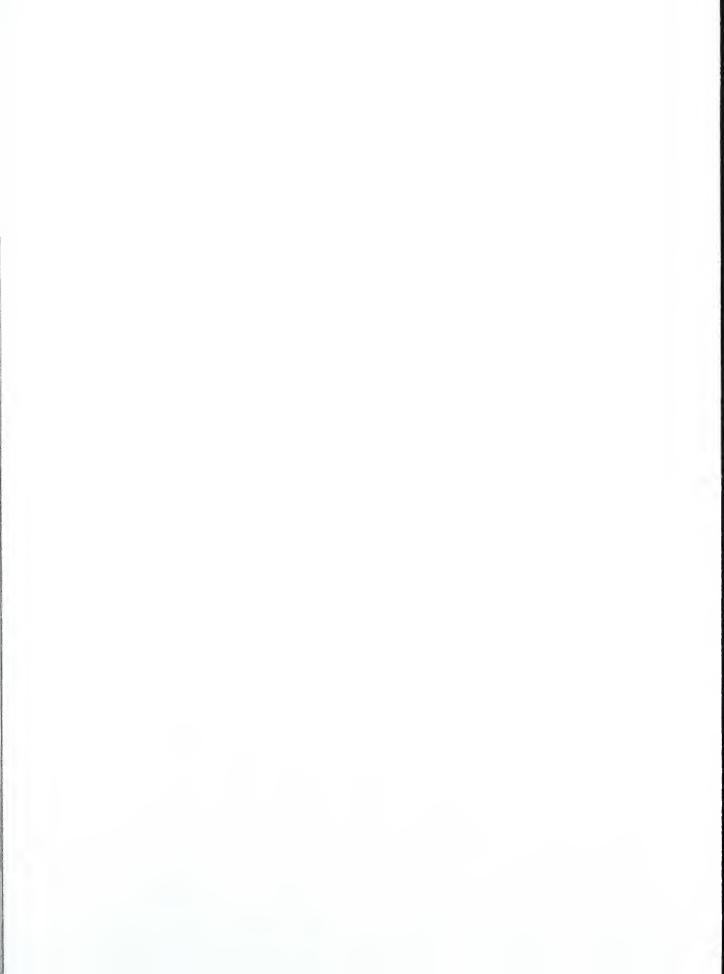
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